

Hafa Adai!

Defeated mayoral bet liable to pay Aldan attorney's fees. [» PAGE 3](#)

Repair of animal shelter will cost more than \$100K. [» PAGE 7](#)

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75¢

Power lines energized to airport, Kobler



PAINTED SKY

Painting the sky in vivid hues of russet, gold, and bronze, a glorious sunset makes a stunning backdrop for this prepositioned ship on the Saipan Lagoon yesterday.

FEMA: We'll be here for at least 3 to 4 months

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

"We are in it for the long haul."

Federal Emergency Management Agency federal coordinating officer

Stephen DeBlasio Sr. said this was the directive given them by FEMA administrator William Craig Fugate.

DeBlasio said that FEMA will be on island for "at least" the next three to four months.

"We're not going anywhere until we get completely into recovery mode and to a point where our services are not needed," he said.

Though the deadline for households

[See FEMA on Page 4](#)

INSIDE



LOCAL

Guam's coconut rhinoceros beetle worries scientists due to its virus resistance.

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LOCAL

The first phase of the Kagman III road paving project is nearing completion.

[» PAGE 14](#)



LIFE & STYLE

Director J.J. Abrams talks about keeping the latest "Star Wars" grounded.

[» PAGE 15](#)



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Local

Man's supervised release revoked for violating probation

The federal court has revoked the supervised release of Francisco N. Basa for violating the terms of his probation and sentenced him to four months in prison, with

credit for time served.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona ordered Basa to serve the remaining balance under

home detention and upon release from imprisonment.

Basa will be placed on 53 months of supervised release.

Basa, through court-appointed

counsel, admitted to violating the conditions of his release.

Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe recommended an imprisonment term of time served. De-

fense counsel Benjamin Petersburg recommended the same.

Manglona issued a bench warrant for Basa's arrest after he failed to appear at a revocation hearing last June 12.

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola told the court that at a March non-compliance meeting for missing a family counseling session, Basa was informed that he should submit to a random drug test. Arriola said before the drug test was conducted, Basa admitted that he used methamphetamine or "ice" a day before due to "per-

sonal issues."

Arriola said that during another non-compliance meeting on April 14, 2015, due to failure to report to a group counseling session, Basa admitted using "ice" a day before because of stress.

That night, Basa again failed to attend a group counseling session.

Basa failed to attend a random drug test on April 27, 2015, and on May 2, 2015.

Arriola said during the non-compliance meeting on May 4,

See MAN'S on Page 4

\$25,000 bail each for 2 men arrested for 'ice' possession

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday maintained the \$25,000 cash bail imposed on Juan Tydingco and Vince Pua, who were arrested Monday for alleged possession of methamphetamine or "ice."

Camacho will appoint two private attorneys for Tydingco and Pua because the Office of the Public Defender conflicted out as they represent a witness in this case. Police earlier spelled Tydingco as Tydinc.

Preliminary hearing will be on Sept. 8 at 9am. Arraignment will be on Sept. 14 at 9am.

Chief Prosecutor Leonardo Rapadas appeared for the gov-

ernment.

Police said Tydingco, 39, and Pua, 23, were arrested after police detectives responded to an anonymous tip about an alleged drug transaction in the parking lot of Friendly Market in San Jose on Monday afternoon.

Police said one detective saw baggies with a crystal-like substance in plain view inside a black 2014 three-door Hyundai Veloster.

A police officer tested the substance, which was presumptive positive for methamphetamine, police said. The report did not mention the quantity of the "ice" found. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

ALL PROCEEDS FOR LOCAL TYPHOON RELIEF CHARITIES

SAVE THE DATE, MAKE A PLEDGE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD, 2015
6:00 PM HIBISCUS HALL
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SAIPAN



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PLEDGE TODAY! E-mail: RaiseTheRoofSaipan@gmail.com or Call 484-6976



Defeated mayoral bet liable to pay Aldan attorney's fees

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Defeated Northern Islands mayoral candidate Vicente Cruz Santos Jr., who filed an election contest, was found liable to pay attorney's fees and costs to Francisco Jerome K. Aldan, who won last year's election as NI mayor.

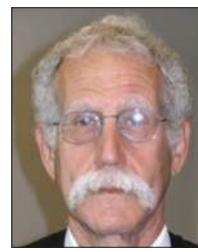
In his order on Tuesday, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo said that, although he dismissed Cruz's complaint because it was improperly filed, he did so through the court's inherent jurisdiction to determine its own jurisdiction.

As such, Govendo said, the court's ability to decide attorney's fees is incidental to his judgment dismissing Cruz's complaint for lack of jurisdiction.

"Therefore, this court finds that awarding attorney's fees to Aldan is proper in this case," the judge said.

The amount of attorney's fees and costs will be determined at a separate hearing on Oct. 20, 2015.

Aldan, of the Republican Party, won over independent San-



Govendo

tos with a margin of 33 votes, 94-61, during the Nov. 4, 2014, general elections.

Santos, through counsel Janet H. King, sued Aldan and the Commonwealth Election Commission, alleging that Aldan was not a resident of the Northern Islands and that there were 40 illegal votes.

After hearing Aldan's and CEC's separate motions to dismiss the case in December, Govendo dismissing Santos' lawsuit for lack of jurisdiction.

To allow post-election challenges to voter eligibility would open the door to non-stop battles over validly conducted elections and would only frustrate the election process, according to Govendo in a written order last December.

The judge said the Legislature has provided guidelines for the process of challenging voter eligibility.

"These challenges are allowed up to election day and not afterwards," said the judge.

In May 2015, Govendo heard Aldan's petition for judgment and for costs and attorney's fees. Santos was present and was represented by King.

Attorneys Judy Torres Aldan and Viola Alepuyo represented Aldan. Attorney Jack Torres appeared and argued on behalf of attorneys Aldan and Alepuyo.

Aldan requested that the court also issue a judgment confirming the election results under the Commonwealth Code in order to allow recovery of those fees. He argued that the court has the discretion to award him attorney's fees.

In his opposition, Cruz argued that the Commonwealth Code does not allow Aldan to recover attorney's fees because his complaint was dismissed for lack of jurisdiction while the

Code is limited to dismissals "for insufficient evidence or for want of prosecution," or when "the election is confirmed by the court."

» Judge hopes Legislature will revisit, reassess Election Code

Following the hearing, Govendo requested the parties to submit supplemental briefs on the issue of whether the court may award attorney's fees if an election contest was dismissed for lack of jurisdiction.

In his order on Tuesday, Govendo said the case is a prime example of what the Legislature intended to prevent.

Govendo said if he rejects Aldan's petition for attorney's fees, the court is essentially rewarding Cruz's actions, as well

as opening the door to any contestor who feels invincible that they too may avoid the implications of filing an improper election contest suit.

"The court is not prepared to take this chance," he said.

Despite his decision, Govendo said he understands there are still improvements that need to be done to the Election Code.

Govendo said the numerous cases that make their rounds to the court's doorstep every election season is a cause for concern.

Oftentimes, he noted, the Judiciary is called in to step into the shoes of the legislators.

"This is not our role. Our decision today reflects that conflict and we must stop ourselves short as to not overstep the sep-

aration of powers our Constitution delineates," he said.

Govendo said it is his hope and expectation that his decision will prompt the Legislature to revisit and reassess the Election Code.

He said the federal circuits are split on the issue of awarding attorney's fees when a complaint is dismissed for lack of jurisdiction.

Govendo agreed with Aldan's argument that the Legislature intended to specifically discourage unwarranted and lengthy election contention lawsuits.

He said the Legislature created the "Voter Challenge" process to "save the Commonwealth both time and money by ensuring that lengthy court processes are unnecessary."

No date yet on arrival of flu vaccines

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

There is no exact date yet as to when new influenza vaccines would arrive on Saipan.

"We have met and contacted the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention but there is no exact date yet for the vaccines to get here," said Warren Villagomez, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. public health and hospital emergency preparedness program director.

CHCC recently issued an advisory about increased incidences of flu-like symptoms in the community.

Although there are few details on how many residents currently have influenza-like symptoms, Villagomez said it is under control.

He said the corporation's pandemic influenza response team and a surveillance team met yesterday to map out plans to reach out to the community.

"This outreach will prove better so that the doctors can go out there into the community and provide medical care," he said. "This is the reason why we also have volunteers from organizations as part of the CNMI Medical Reserve Corps because if there is any sickness that they see when doing their distribution, they can contact us immediately."

Vaccination is important

for people at high risk for complications of influenza, such as those with weakened immune systems, pregnant women, children 6 months to 2 years old, and adults 65 years and older.

A Federal Emergency Management Agency worker recently passed away from influenza-like symptoms.

"CDC has given us the confirmation that CNMI is a priority so we will be getting the influenza vaccines soon. We usually request based on 70 percent of the population," Villagomez said.

The CHCC Division of Public Health highly recommends that the public follow the guidelines for seasonal flu immunization. Other than getting the flu shot, wash hands for at least 20 seconds, avoid the sick, teach about the flu, cover your cough, and have a plan when there's an outbreak of influenza.

If you are already sick with the flu, contact your healthcare provider before visiting the clinic for advice. By doing this, it will help avoid exposing other people at the clinics.

To get your flu vaccination or should you have any questions about this matter, contact the CHCC Immunization Program at 236-8745 from 7:30am to 4:30pm and after hours at 234-8950 or email chcpulic health@gmail.com.

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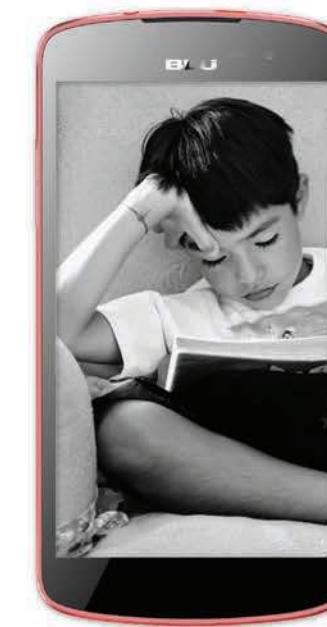
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Sablan: Soudelor brought divisions down

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) spoke at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce meeting yesterday, urging the

community to continue succeeding together after the devastating Typhoon Soudelor.

"We still have people who cannot return to their homes. Power is still out for much of Saipan. People have been out

of work and lost incomes. Some businesses are closed, many are operating reduced hours.

"Even those of you who managed to get back in business after the typhoon lost revenue, lost inventory, have repairs to make,

and many are paying for generator fuel and maintenance."

"...But if anything, Soudelor broke down some of the divisions in our society," Sablan said, noting the help people got from the Nutrition Assistance

BUDGET

From Page 1

"Our position is it's illegal," said Rep. Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan) in an interview.

Saipan Tribune tried but was unable yesterday to contact Senate lawmakers who are part of the budget conference committee.

Lawmakers have to agree on a budget by the end of the fiscal year this month to avoid a partial government shutdown.

The Public School System has also expressed its disdain for what they see as an overreach of legislative authority within the Senate budget bill, which PSS believes would "decentralize" spending authority from the Education Commissioner and give this to school principals.

PSS officials are expected to meet with the conference committee today, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

According to Sablan, the "two primary concerns" the House has with the Senate version relates to PSS concerns and the Senate's reallocation of "outside resources."

"Once we resolve those two [issues], the process will be a lot

easier," he said.

According to Sablan, there is concern regarding the reallocation of "outside resources" that are constitutionally earmarked for the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Essentially, the House thinks the Senate's budget—HB 19-86, HD6, SSI—conflicts with the NMI Constitution on these following provisions:

■ Section 712. Outside Resources, subsections c and d—in the Senate's bill—attempt to amend sections of the Constitution by changing the allocations of earmarks provided to a Cancer Fund Special Account and revenues distributed to the Marianas Visitors Authority. The cancer fund account, according to law, is written to be separate from the "general fund" or the money that the Legislature divides up in a fiscal budget. And the money for MVA, according to law, comes from certain percentages of taxes collected by the CNMI government.

■ Section 708. Other Programs, subsection—in the Senate bill—directs how funds to the Public School System are to be spent. The House thinks this may create a potential conflict between two provisions of the

NMI Constitution. For example, the Legislature, in an appropriation bill, has the authority to direct how appropriated funds will be expended. But Article XV, Section 1(b) also provides that the PSS appropriation will be the responsibility of the superintendent of PSS and the Board of Education, which formulate policy and exercise control over PSS through the superintendent.

PSS concerns
Sablan said PSS recently submitted a "position letter" to the Legislature on the Senate's budget bill.

Under the current arrangement, according to Sablan, PSS has the flexibility to pull resources where needed from different schools if, for example, air-conditioning units break down in one school. Currently, PSS has the ability to shift funds around the system, but PSS believes the Senate budget limits this ability.

BOE chair Herman Guerrero believes the measures outlined in the bill—to decentralize procurement, create new positions, and dictate salaries—are the "first step in administering the PSS from the Legislature."

Guerrero, in a letter to House

Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), said the "desire to control should not be confused with transparency."

An autonomous agency, like PSS, should be held accountable but should not be controlled by the Legislature. Transparency and control should not be confounded; instead an autonomous agency should be allowed to manage its personnel, set salaries, buy goods, and create system-wide plans. This is done under the oversight of the Board of Education who is elected at large, and administered by the Commissioner of Education, as dictated by the Constitution," Guerrero said.

The letter articulates the board's and PSS' joint position on the Senate amendments that include provisions granting the expenditure authority for operations to school principals; \$120,000 for a Chamorro and Carolinian bilingual bicultural program; the creation of four full-time equivalents and an administrative officer and administrative assistant; salary adjustments for associate commissioners and doctors, and reprogramming of all vacant positions to each respective school, among others.

day, according to Riegel. CUC installed 20 of them in Kagman.

Correcting his earlier report to *Saipan Tribune* that 110 concrete poles have arrived on Saipan, Riegel said the poles left the Port of Guam yesterday and should arrive on

Saipan today.

CUC projects the end of September to restore power to the island's main lines.

When Typhoon Soudelor hit over a month ago, the typhoon crippled CUC's power distribution and generation grid.

federal funding to hire workers.

According to Sablan, jobs created with the displaced workers funds can be for up to 12 months and can also be extended for another 12 months.

Sablan noted that the fund will benefit the CNMI on different levels such as helping with the cleanup and gives people who have lost their jobs and incomes a chance to earn money.

"The third important effect of this money is that it goes straight into our economy. The people who get these temporary jobs are going to spend what they earn right away to support themselves and to repair their cars or homes or replace what they lost in the storm. All that spending will help revive businesses large and small and help the economy get back on its feet," Sablan said.

In addition to hiring workers, the Commonwealth may also use the funds to retrain workers or provide other services that will get them back to fulltime employment, he added.

Jobs of up to 12 months

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) congratulated the Commonwealth government and WIA on successfully applying for

CNMI had been in this program already, all the questions about who qualified for disaster relief and if there was enough money to go around would "never have been asked."

"And we would have gotten the money into the economy a little faster," Sablan told the business crowd.

Sablan, who has been on island since Typhoon Soudelor hit, expects to be on island until near the end of the month to continue help in relief efforts. This may mean he might miss the first few weeks of the start of sessions in the U.S. Congress, which was in recess in August.

FEMA

From Page 1

to register for FEMA assistance is on Oct. 5—60 days following the disaster—DeBlasio said public assistance will go on "until it's done."

DeBlasio, together with U.S. Small Business Administration public information officer William Koontz and Red Cross-NMI chapter executive director John Hirsh, briefed members of the Chamber of Commerce at their meeting at Saipan World Resort yesterday.

As of Sept. 1, DeBlasio said, registration for assistance has already reached 7,869 and over \$10 million worth of assistance was approved.

DeBlasio also enumerated the efforts being done by both local and federal partners with regards to power and water supply as well as debris clearing.

He noted that FEMA generators have already been withdrawn from some water wells after the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. was able to restore power to wellheads, which is a good sign of recovery.

DeBlasio also mentioned that nine of the 14 drinking water companies on Saipan are operating and generating more than 75,000 gallons of water per day.

He also recognized the role of the private sector toward recovery following a disaster.

"The Chamber has been a great partner in sharing disaster assistance information with the Saipan private sector and the community at large. It's through such public-private partnership that we are able to expedite the revitalization and the recovery of the local communities and the local economy," DeBlasio said.

Koontz spoke to the business

community about SBA's programs for homeowners and businesses.

For individuals and families, homeowners may be able to get a loan of up to \$200,000 to repair or replace real estate damage and up to \$40,000 to replace personal property. Renters may be able to loan up to \$40,000 to repair or replace personal property.

For businesses, aside from loans of up to \$2 million for property damage, some can also apply for a loan due to economic injury, Koontz said.

"Your business may not have been directly damaged by the typhoon but perhaps you can't do business because you don't have power, or you don't have your inventory, you can't get it. Whatever the reason might be, if you can't make your monthly payments on your obligations, if you can't pay your staff, if you can't pay your

mortgage, if you can't pay any notes that the business owns, then you would've suffered what SBA calls economic injury and you are also eligible for apply for help for disaster loan," Koontz said.

He noted that the term for the loan can be as long as 30 years.

Hirsh took the opportunity to thank the organizations and the business community for their continued help in Red Cross relief efforts and particularly IT&E's help in setting up a call center for them to accommodate the 9,000 calls that they have received.

Hirsh said that disaster response is a community effort.

"We can't do this alone. There's no organization in this community that's big enough that has the influence and the reach that's necessary to provide for our community to recover," Hirsh said.

MAN'S

From Page 2

2015, Basa tested positive for "ice" use and he later admitted to using "ice" that morning because he was stressed out.

In April 2012, federal agents arrested Basa for violating several probation conditions. His supervised release was revoked in August 2012 due to

continued use of "ice" and other violations.

In 2006, the federal court sentenced Basa to four years and six months in prison for conspiracy to distribute 50 grams of "ice." He was placed on five years of probation after completing the prison term. In May 2010, he was arrested for choking and punching his common-law wife. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

POWER

From Page 1

the main power plant in Lower Base.

Kiya 1 and Kiya 2 come off the Chalan Kiya Substation.

NMI

From Page 1

rapid response is most appreciated. I want to thank U.S. DOL Secretary Thomas E. Perez and his staff for this award," said Gov. Eloy S. Inos.

The fund will be used to create up to 300 temporary jobs for eligible individuals.

Inos also lauded CNMI Labor Secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero's efforts in submitting the grant proposal.

"Secretary Edith DeLeon Guerrero put in a great deal of work and effort in submitting the grant proposal on behalf of the administration to give eligible individuals the opportunity to assist with our ongoing cleanup efforts, and to get those who have been unemployed or displaced from their jobs back to working and earning a paycheck," Inos said.

Initial funding

According to DeLeon Guerrero,

a Culture of Readiness

Here are some tips that can help provide a prepared and ready child as they return to school following typhoon Soudelor:

WHAT ADULTS CAN DO: GUIDE

Let children know that it is okay to feel upset and encourage them to talk about their feelings. As you observe their emotional state, adults should help children put feelings of grief, anxiety or discomfort into perspective. Tell the truth and stick to the facts. Also, talk to children according to their developmental stage and age.

Adults should model calm and control to reassure children that they are safe and to bolster children's emotional security. Remind children that trustworthy people are in charge and that they are safe.

Monitor stress levels. Talk to friends and family members that can help. Be observant of those who may be at risk. Seek help.

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO: COMFORT

Focus on your children and make time to talk with them. Reassure them that you love them and everything will be okay. Try to help them understand what has happened, keeping in mind their developmental level.

WHAT SCHOOLS CAN DO: REASSURE

Be aware of students who may have recently experienced a personal tragedy or have a personal connection to victims or their families. Provide these students extra support and leniency if necessary.

Provide an outlet for students' desire to help. Consider making get well cards or sending letters to families and survivors of the tragedy, or writing thank you letters to emergency rescue workers and those involved in disaster recovery work.

Our priority as parents and as teachers is for our students to feel safe and secure, especially after disaster strikes.

By working together, we can ensure that our students are prepared and ready to learn.

Assure children that they are safe and that schools are well prepared to take care of them at all times. Maintain structure and stability. It would be best, however, not to have tests or major projects within the next few days.

Have a plan for the first few days back at school. Include guidance counselors and crisis team members in planning the school's response. Know what community resources are available for children who may need extra counseling.

Provide teachers and parents with information about what to say and do for children in school and at home. Have teachers provide information directly to their students for a more personal support.

Stay close to your children and give plenty of hugs and cuddle at bedtime. Your physical presence will reassure them that they are loved and safe. Spend extra time reading or playing quiet games with your children before bed. These activities are calming and foster closeness, and reinforce a sense of normalcy. Try to maintain a "normal" routine.



STUDENTS FIRST

Accountability • Responsibility • Transparency

Man gets 4 years in prison for 'ice' possession

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A man arrested last May for alleged trafficking of methamphetamine or "ice" pleaded guilty yesterday to possession of controlled substance and was slapped with a four-year prison term.

Zhi Peng Huang, also known as Dandan and Boss, signed a

plea deal with the government. He pleaded guilty to possession of controlled substance.

Last week, the Office of the Attorney General dismissed the trafficking of a controlled substance charge against Huang.

At a change of plea hearing yesterday, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho accepted the plea deal and the defendant's guilty plea.

Camacho ordered the defendant to serve the four-year prison term day for day and required him to pay a \$2,000 fine.

The judge directed the clerk of court to notify the U.S. Department of Homeland Security about the judgment order since Huang is a Chinese citizen.

Camacho vacated the scheduled Oct. 5, 2015, jury trial.

Chief Prosecutor Leonardo Rapadas appeared for the government. Assistant public defender Mathew Meyer served as counsel for Huang.

Police detective Andrew Taimanao stated in his report that a cooperating source told him and police detective Catherine B. Pangalinan last March 28 that Huang was in possession of about 10 grams of "ice"

and that he sells "ice" from his apartment unit in Dandan.

Taimanao said during a sting operation last April 2, their cooperating source managed to buy \$150 worth of .8 gross grams of "ice" from Huang at his apartment in Dandan and \$200 more worth of 1.4 grams of "ice" last April 6 in the parking lot of Han Nam Supermarket in Koblerville.

RELIEF EFFORT

Lady Diann Torres, fourth left, receives a generous cash donation of \$5,000 from Kan Pacific dba Mariana Resort & Spa general manager Gloria Cavanagh, third left, in support of Lady Diann Torres Foundation's Road to Recovery typhoon relief program. Others in the photo are MRS sales & marketing manager Yuichi Kobayashi, far left, MRS property manager and sister of Lady Diann Charlene Babauta, fourth right, MRS Mandi Asian Spa manager Miki Ordonez, third right, and LDTF supporters.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CUC, Raise the Roof reach out to Rotary

By FRAULEINE S. VILLANUEVA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and a group that will be

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 5th birthday to Brannie Jaycee Echalico. We love you and God bless. Hugs and kisses from Mom and Dad.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

holding a fundraising effort on Saipan for the victims of Typhoon Soudelor spoke at the Rotary Club Saipan's meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan

last Tuesday.

CUC executive director John Riegel gave a background on the damage that Soudelor made on the island's utilities as well as an update on where they are now on their recovery.

"We have a capacity right now of about 16 megawatts, with another five coming online soon," Riegel said. "The power plant will be able to deliver the power necessary once the distribution has

been restored."

He said they are looking at 30 days to finish the work on the main lines, which consist of seven feeders, and then they will be expanding to the laterals.

"Feeder 1, 3, and 4 are energized but not the entire length," he said.

Riegel said they are also focusing on the Chalan Kiya substation, which is scheduled for testing Tuesday.

"Our target, our goal is to get there in three months but that's dependent on weather [and] whether or not we get materials," Riegel said.

He pointed out that concrete poles that were supposed to come on Saturday still haven't arrived on island.

With regards to water, limited service is available on all villages across Saipan. CUC said that as their ability to provide power to the island increases, their ability to energize wells will increase water production too.

Although they will not be selling tickets to raise funds, a small part of the fundraiser will sell shirts at \$100 for five pieces. Aside from the proceeds going to people in need, the shirts may also be donated to people in shelters.

The fundraiser will benefit three organizations: the Lady Diann Torres Foundation, the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, and United 4 Saipan.

According to Diaz, all the proceeds will go to the recovery efforts as the Skywalker Communications Group will be paying for the expenses of the event itself.

Awards will be presented during a ceremony to be held in late October.

For more information, contact council staff at 235-4785. (PR)

Nominees sought for Governor's Humanities Awards

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is accepting nominations for the 2015 Governor's Humanities Awards.

This event, held annually in October as a part of CNMI Humanities Month, recognizes outstanding contributions to the humanities by individuals and organizations in the community.

Nominees should have a notable humanities achievement in the past year, as demonstrated in any of the following four categories: Research and Publication in the Humanities; Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices; Preservation of CNMI History; and Outstanding Humanities Teacher (in both classroom and non-classroom settings).

A fifth category, Lifetime Achievement, recognizes significant contributions to the humanities over multiple decades. This award may be given posthumously.

The 2014 awardees included Drs. Hsiao-chun Hung and Mike T. Carson, Research and Publication in the Humanities; Marie S.C. Castro, Preservation of CNMI History; Noriyasu Horiguchi, Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices; Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho and Galvin S. Deleon Guerrero, Outstanding Humanities Teachers; and Abed Younis, Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities.

Nomination forms and instructions are available at the council's office in the Springs Plaza Building, Gualo Rai, or on the council website at www.northernmarianashumanities.org.

Nominations may be made by any member of the general public and are due no later than 4:30pm on Friday, Oct. 16.

Awards will be presented during a ceremony to be held in late October.

For more information, contact council staff at 235-4785. (PR)

3 Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has red-flagged the beaches adjacent to the Tanapag Meeting Hall, Central Repair Shop, and Puerto Rico Dump and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from these locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water.

DEQ analyzes water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainage every Tuesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. (DEQ)



INVITATION FOR BID

(This ad is paid with HUD Funds by NMHC)

NMHC IFB 2015-008

Ground Maintenance for NMHC's Scattered Properties in Saipan
Amendment #01

OPENING DATE OF BID: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2015
TIME: 10:30AM

PLACE: DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT &
SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Ralph DLG Torres, through Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the ground maintenance services for its properties in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

Interested firms may pick up Bid Specifications at the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan, from 7:30am through 4:30pm, during regular business hours, except CNMI Holidays.

A mandatory Pre-bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Conference Room located in Garapan on **Monday, September 14, 2015, at 9:00am**. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30pm local time on Friday, September 18, 2015 to Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director. Responses to questions shall be shared with other respective bidders. For bidders who picked up a packet, please make sure you pick up the Amendment Notice.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS
CORPORATE DIRECTOR

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAM
DIRECTOR, P&S

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff:

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,) Civil Action
) No. 13-0103
Plaintiff,)
vs.) NOTICE OF
JOSE T. PANGELINAN) HEARING ON
Defendant.) THE MOTION
) TO CONFIRM
) SALE OF
) MORTGAGED
) PROPERTY

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the attached Motion to Confirm Sale of Mortgaged Property by Plaintiff Bank of Guam has been filed with the Court and said Motion is set for a hearing on this 22nd day of September, 2015, at 9:00 a.m., before Judge Govendo in the Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 22nd day of June, 2015.

/s/ Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort provides free potable water

»Resort continues with its chainsaw services

LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort is still providing free potable water to the public.

Distribution schedule is Monday to Friday, from 6:30am to 9:30am, then from 3:30pm to 6:30pm.

Saturday and Sunday is from 9am to 4pm.

Distribution point is at the corporate building next to the

driving range.

LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort will continue its chainsaw services this Saturday, Sept. 5. Kagman community residents whose homes have fallen trees that need to be cleared can fax their location map to 236-8880 or submit your map to the front desk.

LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort is committed to helping our community, and we will continue to find ways to provide assistance during this difficult time. (PR)

Opinion

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL

Birthright citizenship distracts us from the real issues

Every campaign, as GOP presidential hopeful Carly Fiorina points out, has "some bright, shiny object" that draws eyes from the often duller details of public policy. This season, it's birthright citizenship and whether it should apply to the children of immigrants who didn't arrive here legally. As long as candidates and talking heads remain focused on that intractable issue, debates about real issues will remain few.

Donald Trump, the most vocal candidate in the Republican field, flatly declares the Constitution doesn't extend automatic citizenship to children born on U.S. soil unless their parents are legal residents. "They're illegal," he says. "You either have a country or not." He wants those children—and an estimated 11 million unauthorized immigrants now in America—sent away.

The meaning of birthright citizenship has been studied and debated numerous times over the decades. At issue is how to interpret the 14th Amendment, which states, "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside."

The amendment and the accompanying Civil Rights Act of 1866, championed by Republicans of that era, were intended to clarify that former slaves were citizens. By 1898, the courts also had ruled the amendment guaranteed citizenship to children born to legal immigrants from China and other countries.

Left unanswered—and largely irrelevant until recent decades—was the citizenship of babies born to immigrants who arrive here illegally. An estimated 300,000 children, primarily from Mexico and Latin America, gain citizenship this way each year. (Contrary to some Internet claims, their parents do not become eligible for Medicaid and other programs as a result.)

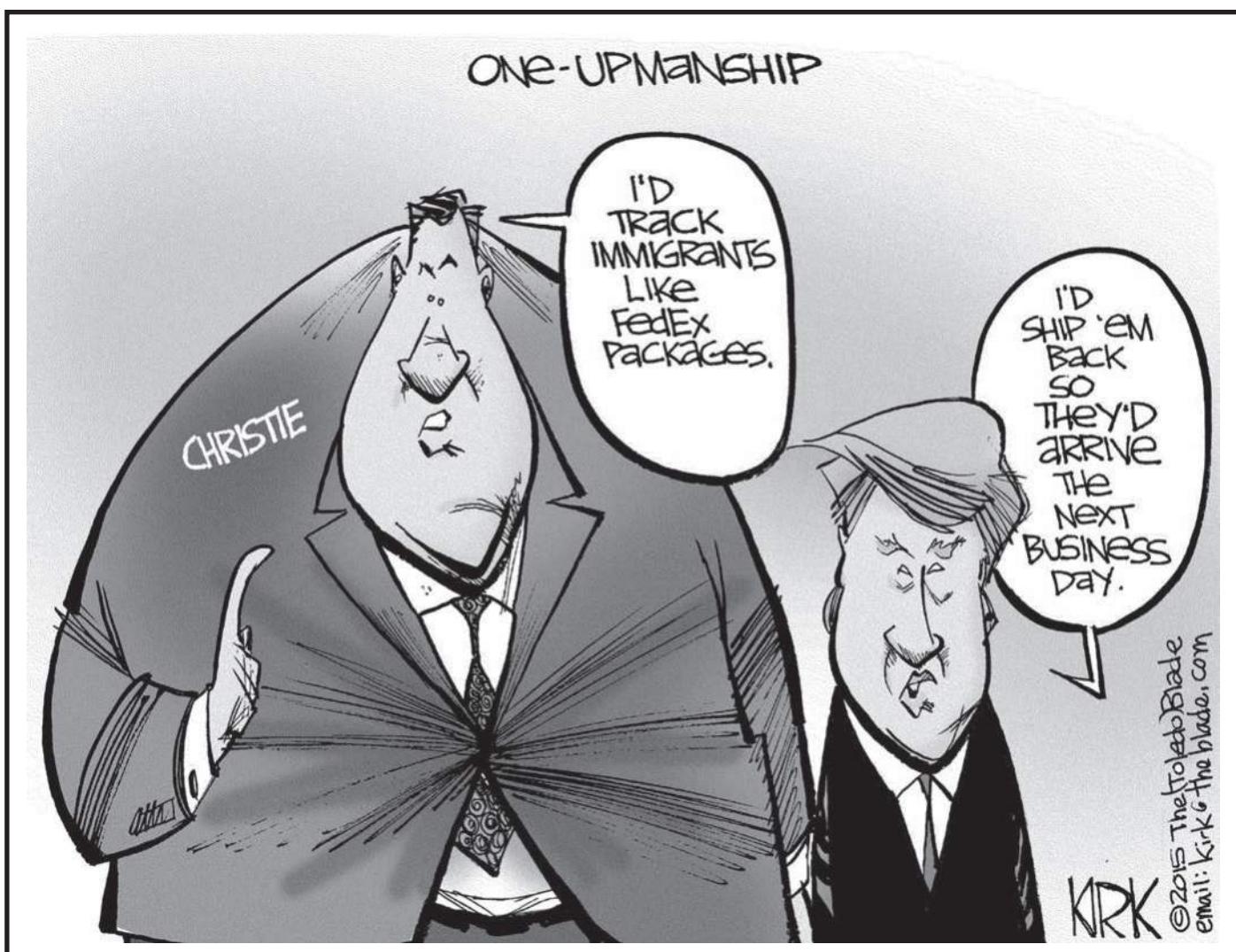
Most scholars agree the 14th Amendment covers children of illegal immigrants. Some scholars contend, however, that it only allows but doesn't guarantee citizenship to those children, therefore enabling Congress to pass a law further restricting citizenship as some nations, including the United Kingdom, have.

There's room for reasonable debate, but settling the dispute wouldn't be quick or easy. A constitutional amendment would require the votes of two-thirds of both houses of Congress and three-fourths of state legislatures—never simple and all the more difficult in our divisive times. Restricting citizenship by congressional action would be no easier because it would inevitably set off a lengthy court battle.

Even if the law or the Constitution did change, much heartburn would remain for states and the federal government. They would have to figure out the logistics of determining the citizenship of parents before issuing a birth certificate or whatever new document serves as proof at the department of motor vehicles and passport office.

Meanwhile, the focus on birthright citizenship overshadows the economic consequences of illegal immigration, including depressed wages and the failures of systems in place to screen out undocumented workers, not to mention all the other substantive issues drowned out by the noise.

Serious policy proposals rarely make for snappy sound bites that draw applause and attention in a crowded primary election.



Saipan Soudelor inventory

The legendary Pohnpei chief's name will be with us awhile but a good month after Typhoon Soudelor's swirl through Saipan left a trail of electrical pole destruction, it is now showing signs of life rebounding. A United4Saipan pickup full of bottled drinking water showed up one afternoon at our "village" to quench the thirst. TY.

The verdant fields are back, *tangan-tangan* shoots barely missing a beat. The numerous standing trees that survived Soudelor's wrath, including the trees whose fruits fill our down pillows, stay majestic in their stead.

The snapped wooden and contorted metal poles at the CUC station on lower Chalan Msgr. Guerrero have since been replaced with cement ones. The four in front of the relay station are wired and fitted, "dressed up ready for the prom," but remains to be connected to the grid as the remainder of the damaged poles are replaced on Beach Road.

Generating power remains a big question mark. While it may be a month before the lines are fully connected, it is hoped that the issue of generators shall be settled by then. The streetlights from Lower Base to Quartermaster Road are a good sign, and aside from the hospital, Garapan seems to have gotten the light of night.

Local institutions were not short on demand for all sizes of generators that off-island sources had been quick to fill up. FEMA representatives made the rounds to check on damage and power generating equipment a couple of weeks before pre-school and elementary levels are scheduled to open doors.

But a gung-ho administrator was frustrated at not being able to mobilize the PTA and volunteers to put her school in operational condition lest any effort before FEMA inspection invalidates reimbursement. The rate of assistance has been decreed to be 90 percent feds and 10 percent local.

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library needs power and water so it can get its literate audience to its tables and shelves. Not exactly one that serves the immediate physical needs of the masses, we also know that humans operate out of images, and images are self-created, or constructed through social memory and the library serves not a few to massage the imagination with literary works on a regular basis. It is welcome news that the library intends to open week after Labor Day.

One "customer" relishes driving regularly to peruse the public library collection and pore copies of periodicals, magazines, and dailies, as prolific writer Gary Dubrall used to do before hightailing it to Hawaii. It is now a month since Soudelor interrupted this daily routine.

But if restoring power production capability and installing sturdy distribution lines are making progress, numerous volunteers eagerly follow after DPW crew cutting down snapped trunks and sawing

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



the felled branches and trees into manageable pieces.

In a spot by the tank on Quartermaster Road near the open mini-amphitheater was a tree we planted more than a decade ago, "re-planted" with visiting Rotarians of Japan. The original tree between the tank and the decade-old but yet-to-be utilized waterless restroom, along with the plants above the theatre's semicircular tiered seats, wilted badly during a lengthy drought but survived with occasional drenching of five-gallon bottled CUC water on the back of my pickup truck. Photo-op Rotarians provided a more robust tree.

Anyway, the tree a decade later before Soudelor was verdant, horizontally impressive rather than vertical as roots hit salty water a meter down. After the storm, the cleanup crew dumped their cuttings on the 3-foot tree that survived the storm but could not breath under the pile of debris. I doff my hat to the arbor's resilience, resigned that it would not survive the pathway's cleanup. The lawn between the tank and the restroom is now bare of a tree, and I now recite a quatrain of Requiem to a Tree each time I pass by the spot.

We are being lighthearted here but I see the situation from the fortunate side compared to the majority on island devoid of life's basic logistics. In the heat of summer, I get to shower and shave at least, once a day.

There is plenty of blame passed around, especially after Abramoff's law firm took many to the cleaners, and the CNMI is unable to shake off being beholden to the feds that value its military strategic location in the western Pacific.

But a month after Soudelor is our focus, and though the current lame duck situation is caused by factors before the typhoon, the 6,000 homes that sought disaster assistance speak volume. Being on the dole reinforced a lifestyle already in vogue.

In the post-Soudelor hiatus, I am resigned to ouch the hair under my double chin after the corrosive air did our Braun shaver in, then brush off the encrusted sediments on near shore seashells I gathered rather than the fresh ones on the reef after we nearly floated to Tinian on the Sugar Dock breach one sundown, gratefully humming, *amazing grace!*

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

‘We will be stronger than we were yesterday’

Yesterday was the start of National Preparedness Month throughout the United States. As recognized every September, it is a time when we can all take a moment to recognize those who help in keeping us safe during times of peril and disaster. It is also a time when we are reminded to do our part in making sure that we, the people who call our islands home, are prepared and know what to do when calamity strikes.

The Commonwealth’s location in the Western Pacific makes it a vulnerable and a target for the worst Mother Nature provides. We are one of the few places in the world that is situated both within the realm of the Ring of Fire and Typhoon Alley. Every day, the threat of typhoons, tropical storms, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions can be found at our doorstep; it is a danger that we grow up with and learn to adapt to as islanders. But, along with natural disasters, we face the dangers of an ever-changing world. In days where the threat of crime, terrorism, both physical and invisible run rampant in other countries, we are reminded to stay vigilant and cautious to these real-world dangers as well.

Disaster can come in many forms and during the month of September, we are each year asked to honor preparedness, the task of always being ready for the circumstances that life and nature throw our way. It is exceptionally fitting this year that we as a people commemorate this observance at a time where we all share in the task of recovering and rebuilding.

Today marks one month after Typhoon Soudelor battered our islands, most especially Saipan. After a Sunday that brought heavy rain and catastrophic winds right over us, we woke up Monday morning to a paradise devastated. Trees uprooted, infrastructure crippled, homes damaged and destroyed, and some of our friends and neighbors left displaced because of the destruction—some lost everything. Fortunately, we all lived through it. This system was one of the strongest, if not THE strongest storm to hit our shores. The pictures both captured on camera and in memory will be fresh on our minds for quite some time. But despite the carnage it left, there was one thing it did not damage: our unshakable spirit to overcome.

Though this disaster blew rooftops or caved them in, it did not shake our resolve or our sense of perseverance in the face of such

great adversity. We came together, helped each other, picked up the pieces strewn across our main streets and yards, and worked in restoring our villages to normalcy. Our first responders went above and beyond in ensuring the safety of both lives and property during the moments of confusion and uncertainty.

With assistance from such partners as FEMA and superb volunteer organizations both on- and off-island, families in need were able to receive essentials such as food, water, clothing, hygiene supplies, and insect repellents to help them get through extremely difficult aftermath of the storm.

With help from friends near and far, we are working to restore critical services to our residents, turning water pumps on, well by well, erecting electric poles where pillars once stood before becoming debris, energizing power lines one feeder at a time, making sure the hospital was ready to accept individuals who needed to avail of medical services. Though there is still much work that needs to be done, through resilience we have made so much progress with the resources both on hand and afforded to us from abroad.

My appreciation is extended to a whole lot of people for their service and sacrifice. I commend Lt. Gov. Torres, during my absence, for the work he has done since the telecommunication cable was damaged to Soudelor’s passing in helping to steer the course to normalcy. I also extend my appreciation to Guam Gov. Calvo, Lt. Gov. Tenorio and Rear Adm. Bette Bolivar for bringing Guam assets together to support us in our time of need. I am grateful to Mr. Stephen DeBlasio, federal partners, and the hundreds of FEMA personnel who still help us in mitigating damage and helping residents get assistance during this recovery phase.

I tip my hat to Ms. Vicki Villagomez as the Governor’s Authorized Representative, the Homeland Security & Emergency Management Special Assistant Marvin Seman and his staff who still work in tandem with our men and women in uniform and other agencies in assessing areas in most need of assistance and relief. I extend my sincere appreciation to our Commonwealth Utilities Corp. with help from our partners from Guam and all over Micronesia, for working non-stop in fixing pipes and poles around the island. To our business community and relief organizations like

By ELOY S. INOS

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Eloy S. Inos is governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, United 4 Saipan, Empty Vessel, Karidat and the countless volunteers of charities both on- and off-island for going into the villages and collecting relief to those who need it most, you are shining examples of selflessness worth being recognized this month. For all you’ve done and continue to do, Thank you, *Si Yu’os Ma’āse* and *Olomwáay*.

And most especially, I thank you residents for your patience and understanding during these last several weeks as relief efforts continue. It is the perseverance you give that help those helping you strive even more to finish this mission, and restore our islands back to normal. The need for preparation should not be set aside for one month out of the year, but every day of the year. In addition, it is from experiences like this that we should always remain vigilant in the wake of any calamity that may threaten us.

The month of September as the first month anniversary after Typhoon Soudelor struck is generally observed as National Preparedness Month. However, given our unique situation, we are compelled to dedicate this month as an All Recovery Efforts Month. I hope that by next year we can observe National Preparedness Month because we will be stronger than we were yesterday.

In closing, I would like to quote President Obama’s opening words after proclaiming this same declaration last year, “In times of emergency, our nation pulls together—neighbors support each other, communities react with compassion, and afterward, our country emerges stronger and more resilient.” That is happening all around us, and we should be grateful for it. Pole by pole, brick by brick, we will be stronger than we were yesterday, and together, stand as a community prepared for any and every calamity in our way.

Saludu yan Bien Felis

Para i gineng maestraghu as Nan Che Torres, sinsiya na agradesimientu pot todū i pinasensiamu yan ansianu na animu fumana’gue ham ni liñguahen mame finu’ Chamorro. Petmanente na rekueddu un’ pega giya hame.

Bai’n ima ennau na achon antigua guatu gi manatatte na manñelon mame. I espiritun Chamorro umakatga ni famaguon mame gi ma-abiban tradision solu añaña ni gumi’ot hit pot siglu. Estague’ i ma’ug na rekueddu para hinerasion na famaguon natibu. Fitme na pisu yan haligen tradision. Si Yuus Maase’ pot todū i sinsiya na sakrifisio.

U felis kareramu hulu’ lañget...”pues adios estake” Nan Che. Lahimu, si Iku.

Mañegan Offresientu: Mauleg finaposhu gi estrakadan politika guine. Kanaha’ todū manhalom gi ma-alilagau na siya ‘sino puestun gobietnu. Guaha mauleg mañatba problema gineng usun kuentas guaha gi palabra.

Buente pot mamos i sistemana demokrasia dispasiu na meegaiña lumetke propiu aksion siha para uma-adelanta kualidat linala’ natibu.

Estague’ na punto muna’ mamatmos-yu’ gi halom manloka’ lañgat gi silensiua na patte gi hinasog-hu. Huñgan mantautau ya manpinalo’ pu nuebu na huegon politika. Gi mismu tiempu, mamos na atrasau gi katkuet manera. Mas mafalague politika ke interes publiku.

Umafagcha’ este na karera yan hinalom kustumbrén pañglau gi halom batde. Haye kahulu’ mahala papa’. Tatnai tana’ e’ i prohimum chansa para u gosa haf’ satton hafa chuchu’ e. Hineñu’ este ‘nai mañauñau hit manmanbota representante siha ni ti mankaspas gi chechu’ areglon linahyan. Dios mihi!

Atan haf’ kinalamten-ta pa’ gu na biahe piot ‘nai hinigua’ Saipan destrosium pagyu. Fuera de kara’ i kahan iya Marianas, mas kara’ entalu’ pagu yan otru sakan. Kasi man-apatten tiau hit na biahe. Pa’ gu’ an gai suette hau mantikan sirasimi para usun maipen hihegsa’, mangahe ham ha’ gi santatte para bai’ n fan epinedoñ.

Dibera: Bula lokue’ grasia gi halom estrakadan politika deste 1977. Guaha mañgapas, memgaiña ni para muta’ katu. Guaha kumandidatu sa’ malagu’ sumaunau. Guaha kumandidatu sa’ mana’ halom na’ anña sin inatuñgu’. Dios mihi!

Ayu mas na’chaleg ‘an duru esta i kombine gi señgsoñ. Guaha kumidentos pot iyg Washington lau tatnai mattu gi lugat. Kumidentos unu pot planun iya Marianas lau i hafafatta na papet

‘antiteg kahitan sitbesa.

Guaha manmama’ pale’ karissu lau ni kanton konfesioñariun publiku ti manmasede. Guaha soplau lau dispues sulun huyuñgi gisisony disposition botadot.

Unu klaru gi offisiun politika: Gigon sulun’ hau papa’ esta i taduñgi tasi ‘nai pinega hau ni publiku. Siña ha’ un’ kemueba kudumu ta’lu lau ha nesessita ennau milagru.

Guaha ti mañgabales kapasidat niha gi offisiu ni ma-okukupa. Lau pinegan publiku. Haye para ta sogné ‘an mamos bahu kinalamten i tanu’? I publiku ‘sino i botadot! Cha’mu sosoñogre otru!

Disparate: Antes mas gi tutuhon politikan pattida guine ‘nai fotte i disparate. Tat kuchinada tihi huñgog kontodu gineng halom apusientu. Dispues kumayada ‘nai guaha makotte pot serioysu yan dañosu na akusasion. Mauleg sa’ guaha pa’gu mas areglu yan inadahe.

■■■

Kontodu maprintan “free press” antes puru pot malabidan tautau ti pot gasetan komunida guine. Este lokue’ adumididi’ matulaika ‘nai sige mona ya guaha mas kinemprende pot direchon kada su-dadanu. Lau puru este siha pasun sistemana demokrasia.

■■■

Kasi patte umafuetsas-yu’ humatme este na offisiu pot dañkulu dimiseha-hu kumetuñgu’ hafa ha embrarasia rinikohen infotmasion para konsumon publiku. Adumididi hu tutuhon-yu’ gi radio yan television dispues de diariu gi maprintan gasetu.

■■■

Dañkulu na responsabilidat un’ kakatga gi este na offisiu. Debi fininenia unna’ seguru na un’ rikohe faktu siha na infotmasion. Ya hululu’ gi todū un’ pertsige i integredat kumu gaseteru. Siempre dispues un’ agradese i inañgoghu gineng maseha haye ni tumaitai tinig’ mu. Yangin siña maigu hau pas ‘an pueñge pues un’ komple che’cho’ mu.

■■■

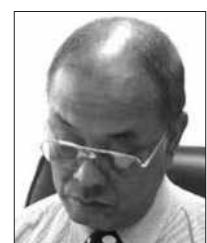
Professot: Umasoda-yu’ yan professot karissu, trosu kumidentos, kulan mohon guiya gumugu’ot todū bandan tinemtum yan minenhalom. Dibera, batbaru kumidentos kulan atoridat maseha haf’ na asuntu. Lau ti hulat ‘an hafana’yu’. Hagas hu titeg lepbloñ. Pindehote!

Mañan Losos: Gi oran gotpe, todū empleau gobietnu debi umatuñgu’ obligasion niha, punto pot punto. Gaige este na responsabilidat gi manehante.

I finatton gotpe yan destrosiu gi maposña na semana ‘nai anog klaru na lamegai na empleau gobietnu ti manmakreansa gi haf’ di-

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

chu che’chu’ niha. Taya’ timon para i prohimum yan mas taya’ benefisio para i publiku. Dañkulu na disareglu gi bandan manehante.

■■■

Megai manpresisu ni manmaletke kulan otdinariu na ha’ane. Manhanau manmama’ , mañupa, makinafe dispues ‘nai marikononose haf’ manmatago niha. Dibera na insutu!

■■■

Megai ‘nai hu choneg gi un’ banda finu’ gueku gi halom tau-ta. Kumeke ileghu, mofo’na chispas to’la’ ke uma-asegura na makandalu usun kabesa! Guaha naturatña este na abilidat dispues ‘nai mamaisen haf’ masusede. Haf’ mohon na ti desde tutuhon in’ isa kabes miyu?

■■■

Guaha un’ membron sanpapa’ na guma’ sessu kumidentos pot sistemana demokrasia. ‘An ta pessa edukasioña (ni ti umeskuela kolehu) yan i asuntu ni ha diskukute, namamahlau para i prohimum. Maulegña u falag kanton sadog giya hagoi ya u enañga haye para u la’la’ na kairu! Not as dumb as we look, pal!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Be forewarned

Good Lord! We’ve created a FrankenTrump, complete with villagers holding torches and attending nightly town hall meetings. Haven’t we learned anything by electing the current White House occupant who promised change but shortchanged voters? Now it’s Donald FrankenTrump gone amok, promising to “Make America Great Again” by doing it his way and his way only. Sound familiar? Be careful what you wish for.

Herb Stark

Mooresville, NC



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MONSTER JUMBO PILLOW

KMART MULTI-PURPOSE BUCKET **\$4.95**

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INFINIFLO CLASSIC LIGHT DUTY HOSE **\$10.95**

Die Hard Booster Cable 6 Gauge **\$19.95**

Craftsman 17" Tool Box **\$12.95**

Craftsman 100pc Drill Driving Kit **\$22.95**

Fly Swatter Plastic with Wire Handle **95¢**

Hosiery Size 6-8 Sport Label Solid Super Low Cut Socks **\$3.95**

Fishing Rod Set **\$18.95**

Singer Start Sewing Machine **\$139.95**

Primo Ceramic Table Top Water Dispenser **\$49.95**

Coleman 40qt Wheeled Cooler **\$39.95**

Coleman 9qt Cooler **\$14.95**

Hefty 66qt Storage Solution **\$14.95**

Hong Ma 4ft Round Centerfold Table **\$43.95**

Disney Toddler Table & Chair **\$59.95**

Kenmore 5,000 BTU Air Con **\$199.95**

Level Loop 5'X7' Area Rug **\$28.95**

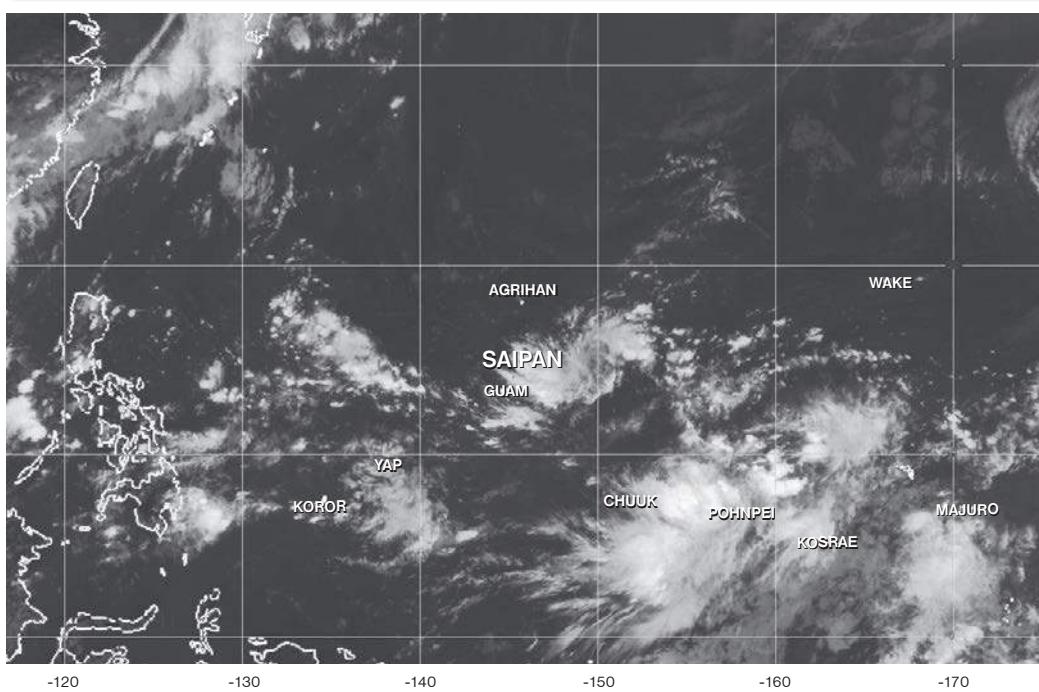
Wantech-14.25" H Touch lamp **\$24.95**

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Kilo is centered near 24N180 drifting north-northwest with maximum sustained winds of 100 mph. Heavy rain and isolated thunderstorms are within 160 miles of the center. For more information on Typhoon Kilo, refer to bulletins issued by the Joint Typhoon Warning Center under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW and by the National Weather Service in Guam under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM. A monsoon trough stretches east-southeastward from 11N130E to a circulation centered northeast of Pohnpei near 8N160E then continues east-northeastward to go beyond the date line at 12N. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found north of Yap and Koror within 60 miles of a line from 18N132E to 13N140E. Similar weather is found southeast of Yap between 10N and 5N from 138E to 142E farther east. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located in portions of Pohnpei and Kosrae states as well as the Marshall Islands between 11N and the equator from 153E to 174E. A trade-wind disturbance is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of the Marianas within 110 miles of a line from 13N145E to 16N153E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia		
Guam And Rota	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 80

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
6:04 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
12:10 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
6:16 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
11:58 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:28 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:27 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:26 PM
Monday	6:06 AM	6:26 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:14 PM	10:13 AM
Friday	11:06 PM	11:12 AM
Saturday	11:58 PM	12:09 PM
Sunday		1:04 PM
Monday	12:50 AM	1:57 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 2, 2015

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily				UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
UA5068 8:00am 8:50am 3				UA5071 6:40am 7:30am 3			
UA5068 8:40am 9:30am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7				UA5071 7:15am 8:05am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			
UA5039 2:20pm 4:00pm 6, 7 via Rota				UA5039 1:00pm 1:50pm 6, 7			
UA5078 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 5				UA5078 1:00pm 2:35pm 2, 4 via Rota			
UA5038 3:10pm 4:00pm 2, 4				UA5077 1:50pm 2:40pm 1, 5			
UA5040 6:55pm 7:45pm 1, 5				UA5041 5:35pm 6:25pm 1, 5			
UA5078 8:35pm 9:25pm 2, 3, 4, 6, 7				UA5077 7:15pm 8:05pm 2, 3, 4, 6, 7			
UA5044 10:40pm 11:30pm 1, 5				UA5043 9:20pm 10:10pm 1, 5			
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039 2:20pm 2:55pm 6, 7				UA5038 1:00pm 1:35pm 2, 4			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039 3:25pm 4:00pm 6, 7				UA5038 2:05pm 2:40pm 2, 4			
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287 6:05am 1:05am+1 2, 6 via NRT				DL298 4:30am 2:55pm 3, 7 via NRT			
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287 6:05am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 6				DL298 10:25am 2:55pm Daily			
DL297 4:30pm 7:15pm Daily				DL288 8:55pm 1:25am+1 3, 4, 5, 7			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ626 2:20am 6:00am 1				7C3402 8:45am 2:15pm 3, 5, 6			
OZ6063 2:25am 6:00am 3, 4, 6				7C3402 9:30am 3:20pm 1, 2, 4, 7			
OZ626 3:20am 7:00am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				OZ625 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7			
7C3403 4:35am 8:20am 1, 2, 3, 6, 7				OZ6053 7:55pm 1:25am+1 2, 3, 5, 6			
7C3403 5:25am 9:10am 4, 5				OZ625 8:20pm 1:50am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6			
7C3401 3:15pm 7:35pm 3, 5, 6				7C3404 10:10pm 3:40am+1 Daily			
7C3401 4:20pm 8:05pm 1, 2, 4, 7							
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSD (PUS)-SAIPAN			

Guam coconut rhinoceros beetle worries scientists

The coconut rhinoceros beetle, *Oryctes rhinoceros*, that has been attacking coconut trees in Guam since it was first discovered on the island in 2007 has proven to be voracious and tenacious. The coconut rhinoceros beetle is a major pest of coconut palm, oil palm, and other palm species. Palms are damaged when adult beetles bore into the crowns of palms to feed on sap. Tree mortality occurs when beetles destroy the growing tip (meristem). Immature beetles (grubs) do no damage. They feed on dead, decaying vegetation in breeding sites. Preferred breeding sites are dead, standing coconut stems, and piles of decaying vegetation such those left behind by typhoons or after replanting of oil palm plantations. If a CRB population is not suppressed, it is possible for a positive feedback cycle to initiate whereby adult beetles kill massive numbers of palms, thereby generating more food for even more grubs, which turn into adults that kill even more palms. An outbreak following this scenario occurred in the Palau during the late 1940s, resulting in about 50 percent coconut palms being killed by CRB throughout the archipelago and 100 percent mortality on some of the smaller islands.

Following a failed eradication attempt in Guam, *Oryctes nudiviridis* was released as a biological control agent. This virus

infests only rhinoceros beetles and it has been the best way of controlling rhino beetle damage on Pacific islands. Typically, damage is reduced by up to 90 percent and the virus suppresses the beetle population for up to 30 years after introduction. Unfortunately, the virus failed for the first time in Guam. Dr. Sean Marshall and Dr. Trevor Jackson of AgResearch New Zealand, world experts on *Oryctes nudiviridis*, were baffled when collaborative research with University of Guam entomologist Dr. Aubrey Moore showed that the Guam beetles are resistant to all available strains of the biocontrol virus. In addition to this finding, Marshall discovered that the Guam beetles are genetically different from other rhino beetle populations on Pacific islands. On Aug. 13, Marshall presented a talk titled "A new invasive biotype of the coconut rhinoceros beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) has escaped from biological control by *Oryctes rhinoceros nudiviridis*" at the International Congress on Invertebrate Pathology and Microbial Control in Vancouver.

Coincident with loss of the biocontrol virus as a tool for controlling coconut rhinoceros beetle populations is an increase in the number of new rhino beetle infestations in the Pacific. In the 1980s and 1990s there were no new rhino beetle infestations on Pacific islands. After Guam was invaded in 2007, the beetle was found in the Port Moresby area of Papua New Guinea in 2007, in Oahu, Hawaii in 2013,

and in Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands in 2015. Marshall has shown that all of these invasions involve the Guam biotype.

Concern about further spread of the Guam rhino beetle biotype and the damage it causes, Jackson has published a note in the International Association for the Plant Protection Sciences Newsletter titled Need for emergency response for a new variant of rhinoceros beetle (Guam biotype). "Analysis at AgResearch has shown that the new invasive populations are free of the biocontrol virus. Disturbingly, tests for control of the beetle with *Oryctes nudiviridis* have proven negative, suggesting that the Guam biotype is resistant to the biocontrol. Our analysis suggests that healthy beetles of the Guam biotype are more vigorous and hence more successful as invaders, being able to survive transport and establish in new environments. Once established they are extremely damaging and difficult to eradicate or contain," said Jackson. He suggests the following steps should be taken to avert large-scale ecological and economic damage to palms by rhino beetle invasions on Pacific islands:

■ Raise awareness through biosecurity networks of the potential threat of CRB-Guam and provide information for early detection and eradication of limited outbreaks

■ Form an International Working Group to develop a strategy for control and containment and coordinate activities.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The coconut rhinoceros beetle, discovered in Guam on Sept. 11, 2007, is a serious pest to coconut and other palms.

Diego Barahona from Eastern Mennonite University, VA, and Domenick Skabeikis from the USDA-ARS Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center on the Big Island of Hawaii to test the feasibility of radio tracking rhino beetles to cryptic breeding sites. The idea worked. One of the first tagged beetles to be tracked led the team to a small breeding site in a rotting breadfruit limb, 20 feet above the ground, the result of damage by Typhoon Dolphin. This breeding site was already occupied by three other adult beetles. According to Moore,

"Numerous small breeding sites such as this are starting up all over Guam as vegetation damaged during recent typhoons starts to rot. In addition, many mature coconut palms, which were riddled with CRB bore holes, had their crowns blown off. These standing dead coconut palms, if not destroyed, will be turned into condos for several generations of rhino beetles. Unfortunately, many, if not most, of these typhoon generated breeding sites are inaccessible because they are in the jungle and/or on military bases. We desperately need to find an effective strain of *Oryctes nudiviridis* or another biological control agent to suppress the rhino beetle population." (UOG)

■ Identify funding sources and secure funding for key participating institutes.

■ Carry out a thorough delimiting survey to identify current distribution of CRB-G and identify center of origin.

■ Find and test *Oryctes nudiviridis* variants to find CRB pathogenic strains.

■ Implement control and containment strategy to limit impact and spread of the beetle.

Worst-case scenario

Uncontrolled infestations of CRB may kill most palms within a few years. A worst-case scenario can be triggered by a massive outbreak of adult CRB emerging from abundant breeding sites made by large amounts of decaying vegetation left in the wake of a typhoon (such as Typhoon Dolphin that visited Guam in May 2015). Very high feeding activity will kill mature coconut palms, leaving standing dead coconut trunks that are ideal breeding sites for subsequent generations of beetles. During a CRB outbreak, there will be an

increased risk of further spread to uninfested islands throughout the Pacific.

Palms are important on Pacific Islands for various reasons: as a cash crop for nuts, oil and lumber, as an ornamental tree appreciated by residents and tourists. On some of the smaller, more traditional islands the coconut palm is referred to as the tree of life. On these islands, this tree is an essential natural resource providing income, housing, food, oil, soap, clothing, mats, baskets, and other containers.

The smaller, poorer Pacific islands will suffer the most if the spread of CRB-Guam cannot be controlled.

Prognosis for Guam

UOG entomologist Aubrey Moore fears that conditions in Guam are ripe for initiating a massive CRB population explosion, which could wipe out 50 percent or more of Guam's coconut trees. During August, Moore hosted Dr. Matt Siderhurst, Kat Lehman, and



PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB



'RAISING THE ROOF'

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Pacific Islands Club management team led by GM Hiro Sugie presents a check to Maryann Santos and Shirley Sablan, who are volunteers for the "Raise the Roof" fundraiser event. Proceeds of the fundraising event will go to several organizations including the Lady Diann Torres Foundation, American Red Cross, Empty Vessel Ministry Foundation, and United 4 Saipan. (KHS)

Kagman High orientation dates

Kagman High School orientation dates are as follows:

- Freshmen: Sept. 3 at 1pm
- Sophomore: Sept. 3 at 3pm
- Juniors: Sept. 4 at 1pm
- Seniors: Sept. 4 at 3pm

Students must register in order for you to obtain a class schedule. Contact KHS main office for any questions- 664-3780 or via email at khsayuyu@kagmanhigh.org. (KHS)

Docomo plans next steps for possible undersea fiber build

Docomo Pacific welcomes the recent support shown by Gov. Eloy S. Inos and the Legislature for a new undersea fiber optic network from Guam to the CNMI, company executives said this week.

On Aug. 18, both the CNMI Senate (S.R. 19-14) and the House of Representatives (H.R. 19-28) unanimously approved formal resolutions opening the door to the Office of the Governor to assist Docomo Pacific in various logistical efforts, including the application for and processing of permits for a new undersea fiber optic cable project between Guam and the

CNMI.

"In light of recent events, including the submarine cable outage between Tinian and Saipan and the devastation caused by recent typhoon activity, the timing of the CNMI Legislature's resolution couldn't be better," said Jonathan Kriegel, Docomo Pacific's president and CEO. "As Docomo Pacific explores all facets of a possible cable build, garnering this type of support from the CNMI's leadership sends a strong signal that they understand just how important staying connected is for the future of the islands."

CHC now has 158 nurses

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The number of nurses at the Commonwealth Health Center is currently at 158, one more than the 157 the CNMI's lone hospital had in March, according to hospital nursing director Leslie Camacho.

She conceded, though, that recruitment challenges continue due to changes in status and the low salary offered by the hospital.

"We are hiring nurses. Most definitely, we are actively trying to recruit nurses. ... [Efforts] to recruit is ongoing from both locally and off-island," she added.

Camacho revealed that all of the hospital's 158 nurses are either registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, and certified nursing assistants.

"One of the issues that we're having right now is retention and it is really hard to keep nurses here," Camacho said.

The hospital currently has 28 vacant positions, according to its website. Earlier CHCC hospital administrator Jesse Tudela told *Saipan Tribune* that there are 30 vacant positions.

Staffing needs include five license practical nurses and two staff nurses for the Tinian Health Center; three LPNs and two staff nurses for the Rota Health Center; and six head nurses, two senior nurse supervisors, five junior nurse supervisors, one head nurse for renal care, one staff nurse, and one certified nurse midwife for CHC.

So far the hospital has recruited a total of 17 nurses from the beginning of this year. However, the turnover is also very high, with the hospital losing a total of 27 nurses so far this year.

"The issue in recruiting is it does take awhile. When we're hiring from the Philippines, there are a lot of issues and a lot of different factors. One example is U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. It could take

from two to six months. So we don't physically see them here at CHC until six to eight months have passed," Camacho said.

For U.S. hires, the struggle is the salary range, because nursing jobs in the U.S. offer a higher salary compared to the Commonwealth.

In the U.S., a registered nurse's average salary with a bachelor of science in nursing would be from \$58,000 to \$82,000 per annum whereas here in the CNMI a registered nurse with a BSN would only be earning between \$29,000 and \$33,345 per annum.

In the U.S., an associate of science in nursing registered nurse would earn from \$55,500 to \$68,000 per annum whereas a registered nurse with an ASN here in the CNMI would earn only from \$24,889 to \$24,889 per annum.

For a license practical nurse, the U.S. salary ranges from \$29,400 to \$50,700 per annum, while the CNMI's LPN salary is only from \$20,485 to \$24,889 per annum. For a certified nurse assistant in the U.S., the average salary per annum is from \$18,300 to \$31,500; for CNA nurses here in the CNMI it is \$17,000 per annum.

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. CEO Esther Muña said that one of their long-term plans is increasing or restructuring the hospital's salary.

"The main focus in restructuring the salary of hospital staff will help in keeping the hospital's nurses and also attract many of the nursing students from the Northern Marianas College," Muña said.

Camacho noted that they have also been in frequent contact with the CNMI Department of Labor.

"We are planning on working on a preceptorship program. Whenever a new nurse comes in, he or she would be mentored by two or three dedicated nurses here and orient them, because that is one thing we need here in the hospital," Camacho said.

Need for redundancy

Currently, a single undersea fiber optic cable connects Guam to the CNMI. The cable, owned by IT&E, is nearly 20 years old. Most experts estimate the operational life of a typical undersea cable at about 25 years—meaning that at some point in the future, a new cable is inevitable.

A single cable also presents ongoing connectivity challenges. In 2011, the CNMI commissioned a study of broadband Internet connectivity by 1 Global Economy Corp. Their final report described Saipan as "one of the least connected places on Earth," and highlighted the urgent need for redundancy as well as lower prices for interisland bandwidth.

A new cable would provide a number of immediate, tangible benefits for the CNMI and Guam, the most significant of which would be much lower interisland bandwidth costs that would stimulate business activity and instill greater confidence in the overall infrastructure of

the islands.

"Increased connectivity and lower cost bandwidth has the potential to be a game-changer for local businesses, government, hotels, hospitals, schools and libraries, not to mention the daily experience of our mobile and Internet customers," said Thomas Higa, Docomo Pacific's chief commercial officer.

Moving ahead

Kriegel confirmed that Docomo Pacific recently presented its initial plans to its shareholder and parent company, NTT DOCOMO Japan, and that Docomo Pacific had received approval to take the project forward to the next level, including landing site surveys, selecting consultants and vendors, initiating the federal and local permitting process, and considering various financing options, including possible partners and investors.

"While the possibility of a new cable is certainly exciting, much work remains to be

done, given the many logistical considerations that accompany such a project," said Kriegel.

"For the time being, Docomo Pacific remains focused on restoring its network on Saipan to its full pre-Soudelor capacity, as well as ensuring that both Guam and the CNMI enjoy the highest quality service possible," Kriegel said, pointing out that as part of the company's rebuilding efforts on Saipan, they are placing previously aerial fiber underground, to "harden" the network and ensure that it is able to withstand future storms without damage.

"This is a time of great opportunity for our islands, and Docomo Pacific is committed to leading the way to bring a new era of connectivity," said Kriegel.

Project timeline

The process of building an undersea cable is complex, and the overall project timeline depends on a great number of variables, some of which are still being

explored. Typically, projects of this scope take approximately 18 to 24 months. However, given the importance of the project, Docomo will be looking for ways to expedite the process. Once the planning and permitting are accomplished, the actual laying of the fiber optic cable between the islands would take just a few weeks.

Senate Resolution 19-28

According to the resolution, Docomo Pacific's proposed projects include the following upgrades:

■ Placement of a new undersea fiber cable between Guam and the CNMI;

■ Providing of live standard definition and high definition television programming;

■ Placement of fiber optic infrastructure underground to all cell sites, hotels, public schools and critical government agencies to protect their communications from damage in future storms. *(Docomo Pacific)*

Kagman paving nearly done; more funding needed for full pavement

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hawaiian Rock is close to completing the first phase of the Kagman III road paving project that broke ground five months ago.

According to Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Hawaiian Rock only paved a portion of the Pine Drive area, near Tank Beach, leading to Pepega Avenue, eventually intersecting with Chopak Drive.

Chopak Drive has already been fully paved, including Mangga Street and Katbun Road in San Vicente as well.

"The reason why they are paving only a portion of Pine Drive is because the intersection of Pine Drive and a portion

of Pepega Avenue leads to an intersection with Chopak Drive that eventually reaches the main highway," he said.

This is part of change order 1. One other part of the change order will pave a portion of Pine Drive that connects to Chopak Drive and intersects with Forbidden Island Road. The change order totals \$58,000.

"More funding is required, however. We still need to secure funding for additional paving of Pine Drive. We will continue to do that and use previous appropriations from the \$600,000 that we got from the 18th CNMI Legislature," he said.

The funding for the road-paving projects was made possible after Gov. Eloy S. Inos signed a local law in July 2014 appropri-

ating more than \$2.17 million in bond funds for Saipan projects. Of the \$2.17 million, \$600,000 went to the Precinct 5 road-paving project.

Aside from the road paving, a problem with Chopak Drive has occurred where the road heads downhill and runoff carries large rocks and gravel into the road.

"We are going to address that. We have a change order for that and it is the continuation of the paving project that we will be identifying to rectify the runoff," said Deleon Guerrero.

As for other Precinct 5 projects, Kannat Tabla might see some paving being done soon, if the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration's Hawaii Feder-

al-Aid Division provides funding for the Kannat Tabla Drive.

Deleon Guerrero sent a letter to Hawaii Federal-Aid Division under DOT, requesting funding for the asphalt paving and drainage construction of Kannat Tabla Drive.

Mayela Sosa, division administrator, replied, saying that Kannat Tabla Drive is not a route and not a federal-aid highway route and the CNMI Department of Public Works must designate the highway as such before federal funding could be made available.

"DPW has the procedure and guidelines to request road classification to federal highway road system. This way we can have funding available for that," Deleon Guerrero said.



Life & Style

JJ Abrams talks about keeping 'Star Wars' grounded

NEW YORK (AP)—Imagine for a moment the peculiar experience of finding yourself in the Arabian desert, telling C3PO what to do.

Such was the case for J.J. Abrams, who—despite his own trepidation—stepped into George Lucas' space opera with the monumental task of meeting the Death Star-sized expectations that await "Star Wars: The Force Awakens." For the 49-year-old Abrams, who grew up a "Star Wars" fan, part of the challenge was coming face to face with a fantasy world he knew and loved.

"That was a constant in the production of the movie: moments where we would all look around and realize what we were doing and gasp a little bit and then dive back in," Abrams said in a recent interview before ducking back into editing. "When you're on the set of the Millennium Falcon or staring into the eyes of C3PO giving direction, it's pretty easy to have that fanatic part of you bubble up. But our job was to be there to tell this story, not to be a fanboy."

Thanks to those fanboys and girls (many of whom are now men and women), there's no more anticipated movie this fall than "The Force Awakens" (due out Dec. 18). The rollout began months ago, whetting the rabid appetites of "Star Wars" fans with an IV drip of footage, still pictures and trailers.

Enthusiasm, which might have waned after the disappointment of the last trilogy, is again reaching lightspeed, thanks to promising new elements (like the rolling droid BB-8), the return of original cast members and Abrams, himself, already the trusted hero of another galaxy: "Star Trek."

Abrams is the New Hope of



This photo provided by Disney shows stormtroopers in a scene from the new film, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens." The movie releases in the U.S. on Dec. 18, 2015.

AP

a franchise (now a Walt Disney Co. property) already preparing to fire out a meteor storm of sequels and spinoffs. Billions are at stake, but the Force, they say, is strong. "Star Wars" Episode Seven is expected to surpass \$500 million worldwide in its opening weekend alone.

It almost wasn't to be. Intending to focus on original material, Abrams initially balked at inheriting "Star Wars," but was persuaded by producer Kathleen Kennedy, president of Lucasfilm.

"She and I were talking about what this world would be, this universe, nearly 40 years after Episode Six and the idea that these characters would have lived on. And yet there would have been this new generation that may not know at all who these characters were, or had heard of them but not necessarily believed that they were real," says Abrams. "It felt like such

fertile ground."

That means a mix of familiar, if now older, faces (Harrison Ford, Carrie Fisher, Mark Hamill, Peter Mayhew as Chewbacca) and new ones (among them Oscar Isaac, Adam Driver, Max von Sydow) that will tether "The Force Awakens" to the original films.

It was made with extreme secrecy, always under the threat of leaks, and under the watchful eyes of "Star Wars" devotees. Fans have dissected every frame, analyzing everything from the physics of a briefly glimpsed lightsaber to the interior design of a TIE fighter.

Working in the midst of that extreme passion, Abrams says, was more incentive than pressure cooker.

"It is on the one hand incredibly and understandably stressful because you've got the anticipation and expectation that comes with this world that George

created," he says. "And on the other hand, it's something that I would never complain about or look at as a negative because it is excitement and anticipation and passion for this world that got me excited not just to be involved with this movie but be involved with moviemaking."

The Force is a mystical, invisible power, but the stuff of "Star Wars"—the matter of its galaxy—is tactile: the melancholy horizon of Tatooine; the lush forest of the Ewok planet Endor; the spilled innards of a Tauntaun. These are the tangible qualities that lent Lucas' films an exotic, hand-crafted realism.

Realizing this, Abrams endeavored to marry modern CGI tools with old-school effects and real sets. That strategy, he says, paid off in capturing the spirit of "Star Wars."

"I can't think of something that we did that doesn't look and feel more authentic that I wish

we had done differently," says Abrams. "Wherever possible, whenever possible, we tried to do things as much in camera as we could. And that meant that a lot of artists on that side of things were building things not with pixels but with wood and paint and foam and actually constructing sets that we could have done in post. It gave the actors the actual location, the actual sunlight or stage light something to bounce off of, and the movie a feeling of being in an actual location and not an artificial one.

Though that meant some hot days in the Abu Dhabi sun and the occasional studio set difficulties (production was shut down when a hydraulic door fell on Ford, fracturing his leg), it was worth it to Abrams.

"It was really nice to not have to also worry about: Will that ship look good on camera? Because we actually had it. We

were actually filming it," he says.

Such an approach was a way to keep the fantasy grounded, and it typifies the entire production: a melding of new and old, fantastical and authentic.

Yet as much as Abrams tried to keep his inner fanboy at bay, he did grant one "marvel": seeing Fisher, Hamill and Ford slide back into their iconic characters.

"What was incredible from my point of view was how apparently easily they flipped back into these roles," says Abrams. "I knew for a fact, for example, that Harrison Ford was going to be in this movie, but I couldn't be certain that Han Solo would be. Meaning, I hadn't seen Han Solo return after nearly 40 years, either. And it wasn't until we got on set that I got my answer. It was a remarkable thing to see how effortlessly Harrison Ford became Han Solo again."

Man is devastated to learn of wife's long-ago affair

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I are in our 60s and have been married more than 40 years. It hasn't always been great, but we've made it.

Recently, while going through some old boxes in the basement, I ran across her diary and discovered that she had an affair while we were engaged. This has left me depressed, hurt and feeling very down. Should I confront her with my findings?

HURTING IN OHIO

DEAR HURTING: If you feel the need to bring this up after 40 years, then rather than let it fester and ruin the next 40, tell your wife what you have found. However, before you do that, remember diaries are supposed to be private, and you will have to explain why you took it upon yourself to read something that was never meant for you to see.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 41-year-old mother of three. I was raised in a good household, but we didn't have a lot of love. My folks were strict, straight to the point and good providers, but I don't remember many hugs and kisses, or moments of real expressions of emotion or intimacy between them.

Now I realize I am the same way with my kids. I'm very matter

of fact, strict and too serious. I love my children more than life itself. But how do I become more loving? I don't know how to play or be silly. My hubby tells me it bothers him sometimes when he's trying to tell me how much he loves me and I make a joke or say something acerbic.

The problem is, my daughter is 9 and she is turning into me and my mother. She's not frivolous, like a little girl should be. She's serious, studious and almost cold in her assessment of everyone around her. It worries me. How do I combat this? How do I change myself so I can help change her, before it's too late?

BAD ROLE MODEL IN MISSOURI

DEAR BAD ROLE MODEL: You have already taken the first step by recognizing the pattern that is being repeated. Another step in the right direction would be to discuss your discomfort with expressing emotion with a licensed therapist, because it has affected not only your daughter but also your relationship with your husband. While a therapist may not be able to help you "be silly," a good one can offer suggestions on how to become more playful and communicate your feelings more openly.

However, I would caution you about one thing you said in

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



your letter. Not all 9-year-olds are "frivolous." Many of them are serious and studious and that's a plus. If she "judges" contemporaries to the point of being sarcastic or cruel, she should be corrected before she's perceived as a bully or turns herself into an outcast. I have always abided by the philosophy that if you think something nice about someone else, you should share it. You might suggest that to her.

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Gardner homers for Yankees in 3-1 win at Boston



BOSTON
(AP)—Brett Gardner homered

and Stephen Drew hit a two-run double as the New York Yankees pieced together just enough offense to overcome Rick Porcello's career-high 13 strikeouts and beat the Boston Red Sox 3-1 on Tuesday night.

Porcello (6-12) scattered five hits over eight innings and the only earned run he allowed was Gardner's solo homer in the eighth. However, the Red Sox gave him little support at the plate, stranding seven runners.

Michael Pineda (10-8) pitched six strong innings for the Yankees, scattering four hits and striking out seven and Andrew Miller picked up his 29th save as New York evened the series at one game apiece.

Boston had a promising rally going in the eighth that quickly fizzled on an attempted double steal.

Marlins 7, Braves 1

In Atlanta, Justin Nicolino pitched seven scoreless innings, Justin Bour hit a three-run homer, and Miami beat hapless Atlanta again.

Nicolino (3-2) shut down the Braves with help from a pair of double plays. Atlanta lost for the 14th time in 15 games, including the last seven in a row, but at least avoided its second straight shutout when A.J. Pierzynski drove in a run with a two-out single in the eighth off Erik Cordier.

The Braves have been outscored 110-40 during their most recent skid. Manny Banuelos (1-3) made his first start in more than a month coming off the disabled list. He lasted 2 2/3 innings, giving up six hits and three runs.

Hector Olivera went 0 for 4 with a strikeout in his major league debut for the Braves.

Rays 11, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, J.P. Arencibia homered and drove in six runs to back an impressive pitching performance by Drew Smyly, and Tampa Bay cruised past Baltimore.

Brandon Guyer had four hits for the Rays, who scored four runs in both the fourth and fifth innings to send the Orioles to their 12th loss in 13 games. Tampa Bay has won three in a row to get back to .500 and stay in the hunt for the final AL wild card spot.

Smyly (2-2) struck out 10 over seven scoreless innings. The left-hander allowed four hits, walked one and retired the final 10 batters he faced.

Blue Jays 5, Indians 3, 10 innings

In Toronto, Ryan Goins hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the 10th inning and Toronto snapped Cleveland's six-game winning streak.

Yan Gomes hit two home



New York Yankees' Brett Gardner, left, is welcomed into the dugout after hitting a home run during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Boston Red Sox, Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2015, at Fenway Park, in Boston.

runs and Michael Brantley also connected but it wasn't enough for the Indians.

Toronto's Edwin Encarnacion went 0 for 2 with a walk and a sacrifice fly, ending his career-high hitting streak at 26 games.

Dioner Navarro singled off Bryan Shaw (3-3) to begin the 10th and was replaced by pinch-runner Ezequiel Carrera. One out later, Goins drilled the game-winning homer into the right field bullpen, his fifth.

Phillies 14, Mets 8

In New York, Darin Ruf homered and had a career-high six RBIs, helping Philadelphia emphatically end its 10-game losing streak to the New York Mets.

Leadoff batter Darnell Sweeney drove in three runs for the last-place Phillies, who won for the second time in 15 meetings with the NL East leaders this season. Andres Blanco hit a two-run double and scored twice in an eight-run sixth, Philadelphia's biggest inning of the year. The Phillies scored the eight runs on only three hits.

Brewers 7, Pirates 4

In Milwaukee, Jimmy Nelson pitched seven dominant innings and Milwaukee hit Pittsburgh ace Gerrit Cole for five early runs.

Nelson (11-10) gave up four hits, didn't walk a batter and struck out six.

The Brewers had four consecutive hits in the first off Cole (15-8). Ryan Braun drove in a run with a single and Adam Lind drove in two with a double as Milwaukee grabbed a 3-0 lead before Cole retired a batter. Jean Segura drove in another run in the inning on a two-out infield hit.

Jonathan Lucroy's run-scoring single extended Milwaukee's lead to 5-0 in the second.

Cole gave up five runs and eight hits in four innings.

Cubs 5, Reds 4

In Chicago, Kyle Schwarber hit a go-ahead two-run home run in the seventh inning, and Kris Bryant had three hits to lead Chicago.

Schwarber sent a deep drive into the left-center field bleachers on a 3-2 pitch from Burke Badenhop (1-4). The blast scored Dexter Fowler, who had singled with two outs.

Bryant drove in two runs for Chicago, which had lost five of six but is still in good shape for its first playoff berth since 2008. The Cubs entered play Tuesday 5 1/2 games ahead of San Francisco for the NL's second wild card spot.

Twins 8, White Sox 6

In Minneapolis, Miguel Sano's towering home run tied the game for Minnesota in the seventh inning, and two Chicago errors aided the go-ahead rally in the eighth to help the Twins beat the White Sox.

Eduardo Escobar's leadoff double, his third hit, started the trouble for Zach Duke (3-5), who threw away a sacrifice bunt attempt by Kurt Suzuki for one run. Third baseman Tyler Saladino let a grounder go through his legs, and the Twins scored twice more on a single and a sacrifice fly.

Kevin Jepsen (3-6) pitched a perfect eighth inning for the win. Glen Perkins recorded his 32nd save, his first in 16 days, despite a three-hit ninth that included an RBI single by Saladino.

Tigers 6, Royals 5

In Kansas City, Mo., Justin Verlander threw his fifth consecutive quality start, and Ian Kinsler homered and drove in three runs to help Detroit snap a four-game losing streak.

The Tigers had lost nine of

10 to drop into last place in the AL Central.

Verlander (3-6) limited the Royals to seven hits and four runs, two unearned, over 6 2-3 innings. He has a 0.76 ERA in his past five starts and the Tigers' lone two victories since Aug. 19, including a one-hit shutout of the Angels in his previous outing.

Johnny Cueto (2-4), who the Royals acquired in a July 26 trade with Cincinnati, allowed four runs on nine hits over six innings. Cueto has given up 38 hits in his past four starts, the most hits he has allowed in his career over a four-start span.

Mariners 7, Astros 5

In Houston, Logan Morrison's tiebreaking two-run pinch-hit homer in the eighth inning lifted Seattle past Houston.

The game was tied 5-5 when Morrison hit the third pinch-hit homer of his career, sending a pitch from Pat Neshek (3-4) into the seats in right field.

Franklin Gutierrez hit a solo homer in the second and Mark Trumbo, who homered twice on

Monday, added a two-run shot off the train beyond Houston's left-center field wall to give Seattle a 5-3 lead in the fifth.

Jose Altuve hit an RBI single with two outs in the sixth to get Houston within 1. The Astros tied it up when Jake Marisnick scored from third on an error by catcher John Hicks when he tried to pick off Altuve at second base.

Cardinals 8, Nationals 5

In St. Louis, Brandon Moss hit a three-run walk-off home run with two outs in the ninth to lift St. Louis.

The NL Central-leading Cardinals have won nine of 10 and lead the division by six games. They've won nine in a row over Washington, coming from behind the last two nights.

Moss, who struck out with the bases loaded to end the third, homered off Casey Janssen (1-4) to straightaway center on a 1-0 count. Janssen took the loss on Monday, allowing four runs in two-thirds of an inning.

Mitch Harris (2-1) worked the last two innings, allowing two hits.

Diamondbacks 6, Rockies 4, 1st game

Diamondbacks 5, Rockies 3, 2nd game

In Denver, A.J. Pollock hit a tie-breaking two-run homer, Paul Goldschmidt also homered to help Arizona complete a doubleheader sweep.

Phil Gosselin homered and drove in four runs to lead Arizona to a win in the first game. It was the second time this season the Diamondbacks swept a doubleheader from Colorado.

Rockies third baseman Nolan Arenado homered in both games to take the NL lead with 32. He had three RBIs on the day and now leads the league with 98.

Trailing 3-1 in the nightcap, Arizona rallied against reliever Scott Oberg (3-4). Oberg hit Gosselin, walked Chris Owings and gave up a tying two-run double to Aaron Hill. Pollock followed with a two-run homer—his 15th.

Rubby De La Rosa (12-6) allowed three runs on six hits in six innings. Josh Collmenter worked the last two innings for his first save.

Arizona led most of the first game. Gosselin, who was acquired in a June 20 trade with Atlanta, doubled home a run in the third, and then broke it open with a three-run shot off Miguel Castro (0-1) in the seventh.

Patrick Corbin (4-3) allowed two runs—homers by DJ LeMahieu in the second and Kyle Parker in the fifth—and seven hits in 6 1/3 innings.

Daniel Hudson pitched the ninth for his third save.

Rangers 8, Padres 6

In San Diego, Elvis Andrus singled in the go-ahead run and then stole home to cap a four-run seventh inning, and Prince Fielder hit a two-run homer and Texas held off San Diego.

The seventh inning started with reliever Marc Rzepczynski (0-1) getting the first two outs before the Rangers broke a 4-all tie on Andrus' bases-loaded single off Sean Kelley. Two more runs scored on catcher Derek Norris' error on the play. Andrus capped off the inning with a straight steal of home.

Matt Kemp homered and drove in four runs for San Diego, and has a major-league best 38 RBIs since the All-Star break.

Ross Ohlendorf (2-0) pitched a scoreless inning.

The Padres loaded the bases with no outs in the ninth against Rangers' closer Shawn Tolleson. He struck out Justin Upton looking before Jed Gyorko had an RBI single and Austin Hedges a sacrifice fly. Tolleson retired Cory Spangenberg on a flyout to end the game.

Angels 6, Athletics 2

In Oakland, Calif., Kole Calhoun had three hits, including his 21st home run of the season, to back a strong start by Matt Shoemaker, and Los Angeles snapped a four-game losing streak.

David Freese singled and scored in his return to the Angels' lineup after missing more than a month with a fractured right index finger. Carlos Perez added two hits while Mike Trout also singled and scored for the Angels.

Shoemaker (7-9) gave up five hits and one run over seven mostly crisp innings in his second start since coming off the disabled list. He struck out five, walked two and allowed only two runners past first base.

Dodgers 2, Giants 1

In Los Angeles, Zack Greinke beat Madison Bumgarner in a premier pitching matchup, and the first-place Dodgers beat the second-place Giants.

The Dodgers increased their division lead to 5 1/2 games after taking the series opener 5-4 in 14 innings in a game that ended at 12:39 a.m. PST Tuesday. They have won seven of their last eight.

Greinke (15-3) allowed one run and five hits in 7 1/3 innings. He struck out five and walked one while improving to 7-0 in seven starts against the Giants since joining the Dodgers in 2012.

Kenley Jansen pitched the ninth for his 28th save in 30 chances.

Bumgarner (16-7) gave up two runs and eight hits in seven innings, struck out eight and walked one.

Steady in face of Kyrgios' 'antics,' Murray wins at US Open

NEW YORK (AP)—Nick Kyrgios does what he wants and says what he wants on a tennis court, seemingly no matter the ramifications, and amid all the near-napping, cursing and racket smashing, he troubled Andy Murray for moments at the U.S. Open.

Only for brief moments, though.

In the tournament's most-anticipated first-round matchup, the No. 3-seeded Murray hit 18 aces, saved 11 of 14 break points and, perhaps most importantly, stayed steady in the face of Kyrgios' various distractions, putting together a 7-5, 6-3, 4-6, 6-1 victory Tuesday night.

"Obviously, for me, it's important when you're playing against him," Murray said, "to just concentrate on your side of the court."

This was Kyrgios' first match since he was essentially put on probation by the ATP, with the threat of a 28-day suspension and \$25,000 fine if he misbehaves at one of the tour's sanctioned events over the next six months. Those parameters don't apply at the U.S. Open, however, because Grand Slam tournaments are sanctioned by the International Tennis Federation.

That stemmed from some trash-talking last month against Stan Wawrinka in Montreal, where a courtside microphone picked up Kyrgios saying that his pal, Australian pro Thanasi Kokkinakis, had been with Wawrinka's girlfriend. Kyrgios was fined a total of \$12,500 the next day by the ATP, which later said it would monitor his behavior.



AP
Andy Murray, of Britain, reacts after defeating Nick Kyrgios, of Australia, 7-5, 6-3, 4-6, 6-1 during the first round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2015.

silence from reporters, Kyrgios nodded and said: "Thought so."

Later, asked what he meant by saying he had learned something along the way, Kyrgios replied: "Keep your mouth shut at times."

Against Murray, Kyrgios was not exactly concerned with containing himself.

He was given a warning by chair umpire Carlos Ramos for swearing too loudly. He complained to Ramos that spectators were being allowed to wan-

"I thought I've been dealing with that pretty well. Obviously it's been tough. But I think I've moved on from it," the 20-year-old Kyrgios said at Tuesday's post-match news conference, referring to the whole Montreal episode and its aftermath. "I'd like to think that I'm going to learn from it. I think I have. I think I'm on the right path. I don't think any of us in this room right now were perfect at 20. Speak up if you were."

When that was greeted by

der to their seats during a game. He spiked his racket against the court and later whacked it against a wall behind the baseline. He won a point with the help of a shot between his legs. He whiffed on a leaping overhead attempt.

Most oddly, Kyrgios leaned all the way back in his changeover chair during breaks, closing his eyes and resting against his towel or clutching it like a kid's blanket, looking as if he were about to doze off.

"Just taking a nap, I guess," he said afterward. "It's good for you."

Boris Becker, a six-time major champion as a player and now No. 1 Novak Djokovic's coach, sat courtside for the match. In an on-air interview during ESPN's broadcast, Becker said Kyrgios could stand to talk a little less and "should be famous for his on-court performance and not his antics."

What happened in Montreal has been a chief topic of conversation in tennis over the past few weeks, and Murray was asked to weigh in before

facing Kyrgios, who is ranked 37th and is talented enough to have stunned Rafael Nadal at Wimbledon last year and beaten Roger Federer this year.

"We all make mistakes ... and for him, it's unfortunate that's its happening in front of millions of millions of people," said Murray, the 2012 U.S. Open champion. "And I think it's wrong, a lot of the things that he's done, but I also think that he's still young, and everyone's different. People mature and grow up at different rates."

Asked Tuesday about the tour's handling of the matter, Wawrinka, a two-time major champion who could face Murray in the U.S. Open quarterfinals, said: "I don't care much about that anymore."

Kokkinakis, similarly, told reporters: "I've moved past it. I'm sure you guys will at some point, too."

Kokkinakis stopped playing Tuesday because of cramps against 12th-seeded Richard Gasquet, one of a record 12 mid-match retirements in the first round at Flushing Meadows, where the temperature has topped 90 degrees and the humidity has been heavy.

The previous mark for most players quitting because of injury or illness during any round of any Grand Slam tournament in the professional era, which dates to 1968, was nine in the first round of the 2011 U.S. Open.

Ten men and two women have dropped out so far, including five Tuesday: Kokkinakis, Marcos Baghatis, Ernesto Gulbis, Aleksandr Nedovyesov and Marina Erakovic.

"For sure," Wawrinka said, "it's surprising to see so many players pull out."

Pedaling for Progress on Tinian set for Oct. 3

The Bikers Association of Tinian will be holding the 3rd Annual Pedaling for Progress 35K MTB Race/Breast Cancer Awareness Ride on Oct. 3.

The race, which will start and end at Taga Beach and will have competitions in various age groups, as the title of the event suggests is being held to promote breast cancer awareness and honor cancer victims and survivors and their support group. Registration is now open with BAT urging Saipan bikers to join the race. More information will be posted at BAT's official Facebook page as the event nears.

Last year, over 60 bikers

participated in the 35K MTB race, including more than 20 who competed in the youth division.

Tinian's Norlo Jacosalem led all finishers and was named winner in the men's 36 and above division, as he completed the course in 1:20:54. Jacosalem won his age group after reaching Taga Beach ahead of Winston Omar and Fernando Cacabelos, who timed in at 1:26:18 and 1:28:39, respectively.

In the men's 35 below age group, J.C. Libut crossed the finished line more than a minute ahead of Shingo Kajiwara as the former posted 1:24:50

against the latter's 1:26:19. Ian Pascua rounded out the Top 3 after registering 1:29:33, while other notable finishers were Ulysses Gana (1:44:36), Joe Camacho (1:29:50) and Derek Gifford (2:24:43).

In the women's division, Kimberly King-Hinds was the runaway winner as she checked in at 1:25:19, more than 25 minutes ahead of 36-and-above runner-up Majorie Cabay, who logged 1:57:58. Rosalina Lazaro was the third female biker on the field and won the women's below 35 division after clocking in at 1:52:20. (Roselyn B. Monroyo)

CNMI

From Page 20

match against a local club, as the CNMI bets will face tough opponents in Group H of the qualifiers.

The CNMI team will duel a familiar foe in Chinese-Taipei in its debut game on Sept. 28. The Commonwealth players have played against Chinese-Taipei in previous East Asian Football Federation events. Next up for Sekiguchi and company is Singapore, which will challenge a CNMI male squad for the first time (an all-female team collided against the Singaporeans in the Luen Thai Cup in Hong Kong in July this year).

The NMIFA-backed team will have back-to-back games against unfamiliar foes, as it squares off against host Thailand on Oct. 2, two days after facing Singapore. The CNMI crew will then close out against fellow EAFF member South Korea on Oct. 4.

The top finisher in Group H and nine other pools along with the five best second-placed teams will advance to the finals in Bahrain next year.

NEXT

From Page 20

Roman Alvarez defeated then defending champion Robert "The Real Deal" Wusstig (4-9) in Trench Warz 18: Rock & Rumble last July 3 also at World Resort to claim the featherweight crown.

Boom only needed 26 seconds in the first round to complete the knockout victory and regain the 145-lb belt for

Saipan. Wusstig won the crown against Boom's cousin, Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez, in Trench Warz 15: Supremacy on Dec. 16, 2011 by split decision.

On the other hand, the Cepeda-Gatmen title bout last July 3 in Trench Warz 18 was declared a no-contest as the scheduled five-rounder ended abruptly on an accidental low blow by the Guam Muay Thai bet.

Gatmen accidentally kicked Cepeda on his groin early in the

MINI

From Page 20

The NMSA president added he hasn't received any call or email from the PGC, raising concerns on the damage cost by Soudelor to sports facilities on Saipan and its effect to the Commonwealth's hosting of the Mini Games in 2021.

"I have not heard from the PGC since the typhoon. No visits from the PGC are scheduled," White said.

Usually, the PGC, headed by president Vidhya Lakan with

Andrew Minogue as executive director, holds a site visit to the host nation a few months before the competition schedule. The two officials had their last visit on Saipan and its facilities in May 2014 and two months later the CNMI was given the hosting rights for the 2021 event.

Minogue, in an earlier evaluation report, recommended minor repairs and improvements at the Oleai complex, but now the facility may have to undergo a major facelift after Typhoon Soudelor struck Saipan last

first round of their lightweight title match.

Gatmen and Cepeda were locked in arms while standing when the former accidentally hit the latter's groin in an attempt to deliver several knees to his opponent. Cepeda dropped down to the canvass wincing in pain prompting referee Alvarez to immediately step in and stop the fight.

The match was declared a no-contest.

Aug. 2. However, repairs at the sports facility may not happen soon, as CNMI relief efforts are focused on rebuilding homes for affected families and providing residents' other immediate needs, such as power and adequate water supply.

NMSA has cancelled its last two monthly meetings and has yet to discuss among its members plans about the repair works, while its executive director Tony Rogolifoi have been preparing an assessment report on the damage to the Oleai Sports Complex.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	75	57	.568	—
New York	73	58	.557	1 1/2
Tampa Bay	66	66	.500	9
Baltimore	63	69	.477	12
Boston	61	71	.462	14

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Kansas City	80	51	.611	—
Minnesota	68	63	.519	12
Cleveland	64	67	.489	16
Chicago	61	69	.469	18 1/2
Detroit	61	70	.466	19

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	73	60	.549	—
Texas	69	62	.527	3
Los Angeles	66	66	.500	6 1/2
Seattle	62	71	.466	11
Oakland	58	75	.436	15

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	73	59	.553	—
Washington	66	65	.504	6 1/2
Atlanta	54	78	.409	19
Miami	54	79	.406	19 1/2
Philadelphia	53	80	.398	20 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	86	46	.652	—
Pittsburgh	79	51	.608	6
Chicago	75	56	.573	10 1/2
Milwaukee	56	75	.427	29 1/2
Cincinnati	54	77	.412	31 1/2

West Division

	W	L
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**Gardner
homers for
Yankees in 3-1
win at Boston**
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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Steady in face of
Kyrgios' 'antics,'
Murray wins at
US Open**
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20 THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2015

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

DESPITE SOUDELOR RUINING SPORTS FACILITIES

Mini Games hosting in 2021 still on track

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roelyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's losing bid to host the 2017 Pacific Mini Games is a blessing in disguise now that sports facilities on Saipan suffered major damage from Typhoon Soudelor.

The Commonwealth tied Vanuatu, 8-8, during the first round battle for the hosting rights to the quadrennial meet during the Pacific Games Council general assembly in New Caledonia in 2011 and eventually lost in the second round, 9-13. Had the CNMI won, it will be pressed to make immediate repairs to the Oleai Sports Complex and other facilities like the Marianas High School Gymnasium or worse give up the hosting rights to other willing nations. However, with the Commonwealth



awarded the hosting rights to the 2021 competitions, time will be on the Commonwealth's side.

With six years to go before the Mini Games come to Saipan for the first time, Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White believes the CNMI will have a lot of time to get things done.

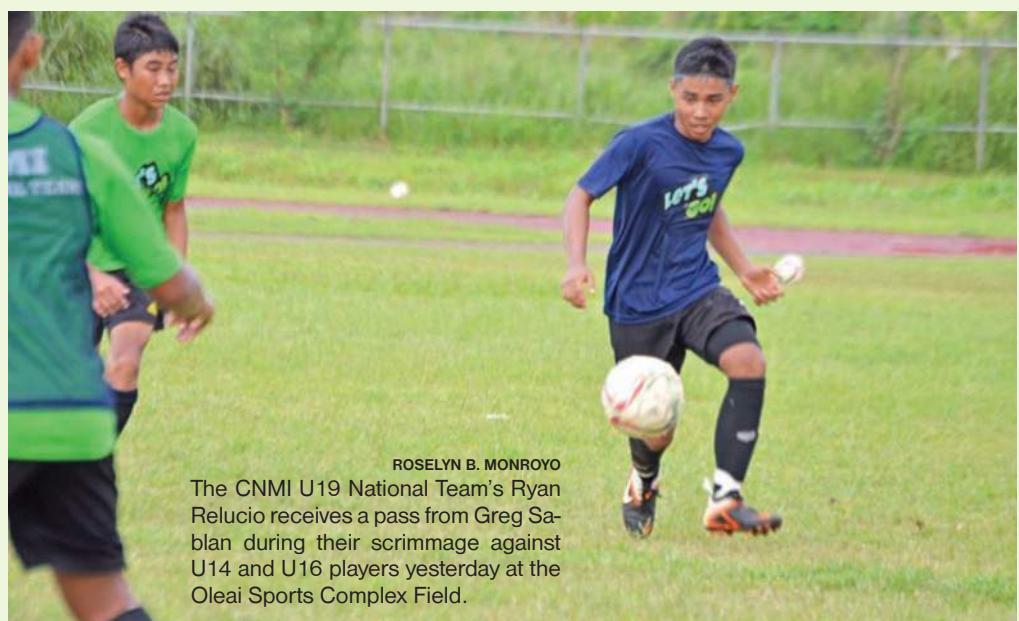
"I have every confidence that we will be ready to host the Pacific Mini Games in 2021," White told *Saipan Tribune*.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Fallen trees are scattered near the fence of the Oleai Sports Complex after Typhoon Soudelor hit Saipan last month.



CNMI U19 team to AFC tourney named



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The CNMI U19 National Team's Ryan Relucio receives a pass from Greg Sablan during their scrimmage against U14 and U16 players yesterday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Twenty-four players were named to the CNMI U19 National Team that will be competing in the AFC U19 Championship Bahrain 2016 Qualifiers in Bangkok, Thailand later this month.

The list includes goalkeepers Christopher Aninzo and Joshua Galaro, midfielders Emmanuel Aniana, Joel Fruit, Hunter Jewell, Jahn Joyner, Scott Kim, Yoshi Mafnas, Greg Sablan, and Terrence Thosert-Belcher, defenders Enrico Del

Rosario, Euly James Ermitano, Alan Hinson, Kennedy Izuka, Won Young Kim, John Diego Masga, Ryan Relucio, and Mareko Tekopua, and forwards Chad Shankweiller, Sean Perez, and Ryu Tanzawa, and reserves Reniel Relucio, Louie Calayag, and Jordan Butcher.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association technical director Kiyoshi Sekiguchi will coach the squad and he will have Jershwin Angeles and Takemoto Suzuki as assistant and goalkeeper coach.

respectively. Completing the CNMI representatives to the AFC event are head of delegation Elna Curate, NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta, team manager Norman Del Rosario, assistant team manager Angie Ito, and physiotherapist Pamela Ann Carhill.

The Commonwealth's U19 crew will be playing in Bangkok from Sept. 28 to 4, but will leave Saipan a week early as the squad will hold training

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Next Trench Tech event set for November

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Trench Tech promoter Cuki Alvarez has set Nov. 27 as their second fight event this year after they cancelled last month's scheduled mixed martial arts bout due to the aftermath of Typhoon Soudelor.

Rites of Passage 19: Seek & Destroy was supposed to be held last Aug. 14 at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall but Trench Tech called it off as Saipan was still recovering from the devastation of

Soudelor.

"We did have to cancel out our second ROP event that was originally set for August. Due to all the delays this year and the cancellation of the May event we simply had no other option," Alvarez told *Saipan Tribune*.

"So this year we will only have two events. With Trench Warz 19: No Holding is set for Nov. 27," he added.

Alvarez said that though the fight card for 19th edition of the Trench Warz MMA series is still in the works, undefeated

reigning 145-lb champion Roman "Boom" Alvarez (5-0) and Ning "Slicer" Cepeda (5-1) are set to climb the cage.

"It [fight card] is still in the making. But we're looking for an opponent for Boom for his title defense. It will also feature a rematch between Ning and Eric "Gatty" Gatmen (2-0) for the 155-lb title."

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Fight fans would have to wait for a few more months before they could watch another Trench Tech mixed martial arts event.

JON PEREZ